

Weld County Fair Board Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Aaron Helus in the Fair Board Room at the Island Grove Event Center, 501 North 14th Avenue, Greeley.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Those present were President Helus and Fair Board Members Tom Bledsoe, Lauren Dever, and Ken Vaughn. Board Member Isaia Aricayos arrived late, and Board Member Christine Gabel was excused. A vacancy exists on the Fair Board. Also present were Fair Coordinator Jenette Masarie, Extension Director Hannah Swanbom, and Fair Administrative Assistant Cheryl Aragon who recorded the Minutes.

FAIR ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES: Board Member Bledsoe reported that two pigs did not clear vet check.

Board Member Dever reported that the pig barn went smoothly that morning and noted that the weather helps. She noted that there was one re-weigh issue, but it got cleared up.

Board Member Ken Vaughn spoke about the Fair Rules not allowing professional fitters and that if they are in the pen, they will be asked to leave. He expressed concern that there are no ramifications for breaking Fair Rules. He stated that if the Rule is not going to be enforced, then it should be removed from the Rules.

Fair Coordinator Masarie agreed that if there is a Rule Book, the Rules should be enforced. She added that formal complaints must be filed so that they can be investigated and that anonymous protests will not be considered.

President Helus stated that enforcement of the Rule Book falls on the Superintendents, and if they are not going to do that, new superintendents should be found.

Additional discussion ensued about assigning pens, and again, it was stressed that a better process is needed in the future. In Denver, there are no issues, only in Weld County it seems.

Board Member Dever mentioned that someone changed entries after the deadline and inquired if that was allowed. Fair Coordinator Masarie stated that both cannot be entered, but they are allowed to switch if staff calls them about entering two.

Board Member Aricayos arrived at 1:33 p.m.

Fair Coordinator Masarie reported that poultry and pigs are going well and that KFKA radio did some radio interviews with exhibitors earlier in the day.

Livestock Agent Larry Hooker reported that weigh ins have been the best ever, and that all is going well.

Board Member Aricayos offered kudos to staff for all the amazing help with Virtual Poultry show. He also mentioned that he received a complaint from someone unable to get to a handicap spot that morning because hogs were blocking those spaces.

Safety Committee Member Holcomb stated that Security talked with the person complaining, and it did not go well. She suggested that Senior Day parking be revisited for next year so that things are clearer.

President Helus stated that he talked with Debbie about the horse exhibitor, and she feels like the third-place finisher should be asked to come in and the other exhibitor would be out. Teresa Johnson will be asked to handle this. Discussion ensued, and Fair Coordinator Masarie stated that they will talk with the exhibitor and be allowed to bring another horse. It will be stressed that this is a one-time thing since it was not clear he did not have another horse.

Fair Coordinator Masarie suggested that procedures be written so that some of these things and guidelines can be documented for reference and consistency going forward.

There being no further business to come before the Fair Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Isaia Aricayos, Fair Board Secretary