



FAIR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2018

The meeting was held at the Madison County Fairgrounds, Twin Bridges, Montana on August 8, 2018, and came to order at 7:10 p.m. Those present were: Dana Escott (Fairgrounds Manager), Chad Armstrong (Board Chairman), Bill Holden (Vice-Chairman), Tom Leo (Fair Board), Jake Barnosky (Fair Board), Heather Puckett via cell phone (Fair Board), Bonnie O'Neill (Chief Administrative Officer), Lindsay Seidensticker (Star Busters' 4H Leader), Stan Olsen (4H Council President), Randy Lowder, Leif Funston (Livestock Committee President), Commissioner Ron Nye. Savanna Stewart took minutes.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items: None

DISCUSSION and/or ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Nile Sanction/Team Entry Fees:** Bill Holden was contacted by people running the NILE Ranch Rodeo Finals regarding sanctioning the Madison County Fair Rancho Rodeo with them. For the first year, the sanctioning fee would cost \$250.00. The entry fee for a team sent from our ranch rodeo would be \$500.00 plus the \$250.00 sanctioning fee. After the first year, this cost would increase to \$950.00 to include a \$450.00 sanctioning fee. Bill explained that the sanctioned ranch rodeo would also be advertised by NILE in the form of logos, announcer mentions, banners, etc. The winning team of the NILE Ranch Rodeo qualifies for the Western States Ranch Rodeo Associations (WSRRA) Finals. The WSRRA finals will be held in Winnemucca, Nevada. The payout of the NILE Ranch Rodeo Finals is currently \$8000 with eleven teams entered at \$500 per team. Bill reported that the sanctioned rodeo receives ten hospitality passes as well as tickets to the NILE Ranch Rodeo. The entered team receives 5 tickets to the rodeo. Bill stated that the team sent from the 2017 Twin Bridges Ranch Rodeo to the Big Sky Ranch Rodeo Finals had a negative experience and reported that they would not go again. Bill expanded on this, stating that rules, locations, and other aspects of the rodeo were changed on short notice and resulted in a hectic and unenjoyable event.

The Twin Bridges Ranch Rodeo will feature 8 teams. Fourteen teams expressed interest in the rodeo, but it was decided previously that it would be capped at eight teams. Chad expressed concern that the advertising would open the competition up to more outside competition while consequently limiting local teams because of the eight team cap. Jake raised the question as to whether or not preference could be given to local teams and Bill proposed the idea of demonstrating preference for local team for a week before opening the competition up to everyone. Bill also proposed waiting until the first of the year to discuss being sanctioned with NILE. However, due to their policy of asking sanctioned rodeos to return before reaching out to others, waiting until 2019 would not be ideal. Tom moved to have the Madison County Fair pay the sanctioning fee and half of the entry fee for the since the team will already have expenses of their own, but Chad expressed concern regarding whether or not teams would take it seriously if their entire entry fee was paid. Chad clarified, in regards to a question from Jake, that the sanctioning fee would be nonrefundable as soon as the deal with NILE was official. The entry fee would be nonrefundable once a team from the Twin Bridges Ranch Rodeo qualified for and was entered in the NILE Ranch Rodeo Finals. In a 1-4 vote, the motion failed.

Tom offered to pay the sanctioning fee of \$250.00. Heather agreed with Chad's statement that paying only partial entry fee would likely cause the team to take the NILE Ranch Rodeo more seriously than if

the team's entire entry fee were paid. Bonnie asked for clarification as to where in the budget the money for the sanctioning fee would come from. Dana explained that all sanctioning fees and similar items fall under the line item "Rodeo." Bill moved to accept Tom's offer to pay the \$250.00 sanctioning fee with the Madison County Fair paying half the entry fee. Jake seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

2. **Roping Pens:** Dana reported that there are some roping pen parts that could be obtained from Beaverhead County for \$1500. The pens were removed around a year ago and have been sitting since. It is known that the pens are not in perfect condition, but the exact condition of them is unknown. Chad suggest having someone travel to Dillon to examine the pens and report back on whether or not they would be a wise investment. Bill explained that he is willing to make the trip to Dillon to examine the roping pens, but also explained that, if the roping pens were purchased, the project would take a reasonable amount of work including a fair amount of welding.
3. **Miscellaneous:** Tom reported that he was contacted regarding sheep having ringworm. Leif Funston explained that, due to several lamb workshops being held, several lambs in various clubs had contacted ringworm. This raised concern for the public since the lambs would be exhibited at Fair. Leif reported that he did contact the Department of Livestock about the issue. There is no bans on the lambs being exhibited at the Madison County Fair, but they may be quarantined or isolated from others simply to minimize the possible spreading of the ringworm. No lambs were reported to have ringworm at weigh-in, but concerns were raised about two steers. The steers were examined by Doug Reedy, and were decided to be of minimal concern. Chad stated that he would prefer that the Fair Board remains separate from the situation, but was willing to create guidelines or something similar to be used by the 4H if needed in situations like the current one. Stan Olsen stated that this would not be necessary because of the information already available. Dana reported that someone had inquired about the Fair's liability of having animals that could be infected with ringworm at the fair around the public. The possibility of people becoming infected was deemed an inherent risk of attending Fair. Stan explained that any issues arising from the 4H animals could be covered by the MSU 4H insurance policy.

Tom reported that all bathrooms are currently working, but expressed concern in regards to the event of a malfunction.. Dana reported that the Fair was also now in charge of cleaning the Riverside Park bathrooms during Fair. Chad expressed concern that Dana's decision to keep the Riverside Park bathrooms closed was overridden without her consent or the consent of the Fair Board. Tom expanded on this by saying that the previous decision to keep the Riverside Park bathrooms closed was also made in part by Ken Walsh, who is in charge of the Park facilities. Additionally, the recent decision to open the bathrooms conflicted with the Board's insistence that Dana, as Fair Manager, has enough authority to be trusted making decisions she feels will best allow the Fairgrounds to run smoothly. Bill asked for clarification as to why the Fairgrounds' resources were being used to clean the Riverside Park bathrooms and was told that the Park does not have the cleaning supplies or crew necessary to take care of the bathrooms, which is partly why they were to remain closed. Dana stated that she felt blindsided by the decision to open the bathrooms, which provided more work for the Fairgrounds crew and exposed members of the crew to the unsafe environment caused by mouse poop in the bathrooms; she asked that such decisions be discussed more openly. Dana stated she wanted, respectively, to vocalize she felt disrespected by Bonnie when called Tuesday, August 7, 2018 on speaker phone during the Commissioners' meeting. Dana also stated she feels that the way in which Bonnie talks to her contributes to the creation of a hostile work environment. Commissioner Nye explained that the intention of the decision was not to create problems or hostility but to provide the public with an additional facility after a complaint was made. Chad asked why the complaint was not raised to the Fair Manager or the Fair Board instead of being placed in front of the Commissioners. Bonnie stated that the decision was made with input from Dana.

In regards to the discussion of hiring a crew to handle bathroom malfunctions, Tom reiterated not being willing to expose any Fair staff to the dangers of a malfunctioning restroom. Heather suggested having the company hired for Porta Potties (currently Klasen) also be hired to clean or maintain the other bathrooms as well, which Dana then explained is usually typical of Klasen. Heather also asked if a toilet malfunction could be considered a disaster and therefore covered by the Fair's insurance. Chad asked if the Fairgrounds crew was currently able to shut water off or do what is necessary to close bathrooms in the event of a malfunction until someone could be hired to fix the problem later rather than at the time of the issue. It was suggested that a limit be put on the price to hire someone if needed. Tom moved to hire, in the event of a malfunction, a crew to handle the situation in order to minimize the Fair crew's exposure to the dangers present in a malfunction. Bill seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Tom moved to allow Dana to rehire the band Exit 53 for next year granted they put on a good show, interact with the crowd, etc. Bill seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Chad asked for clarification as to smoking on the Fairgrounds. A previous decision allowed smoking on the grounds but not within 30 feet of any building in accordance with Montana law. Chad stated that he would like to remove the signs that prohibit smoking on the grounds on the grounds while leaving/enforcing the signs that prohibit smoking by the buildings. The Board approved of this decision.

Dana reported that mag chloride was put on the grounds. WE Dust Control put mag chloride throughout the grounds, including down the road leading to the back entrance. Because the back entrance was not originally supposed to be treated, its treatment created an additional \$1000 expense. It was suggest that the treatment of the back entrance become a regular occurrence because of the benefits its presents.

Bonnie proposed having a discussion about Dana's authority at the Fairgrounds with the Commissioners and Fair Board after Fair is over. The purpose would be to clarify Dana's authority.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm. Minutes typed and prepared by Savanna Stewart.

Approved: Fair Board Chairperson Date
And/or Vice Chairperson