

**BAKER COUNTY FAIR BOARD**  
**Minutes of June 7, 2006**  
**Board Meeting**

**Members Present:** Chairman Ron Rowan, Vice Chair Dean Defrees, Rob Ellingson, Ann Kniesel, Mark Johnson, Andy Barr

**Members Not Present:** Tony Britt

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Janice Cowan

**AB Members Not Present:** Mary Ellen Anderson, Bob Borgen

**Others in Attendance:** Andi Sexton (staff); Mellisa Miller and Michelle Paoletti of Leadership Baker; Connie Pound-Lewis, 4H Grandparent.

**The Meeting was called to order** at 6:10 pm by Chairman Ron Rowan.

Guest presentations and related new business items from the agenda were addressed prior to the main business portion of the meeting.

**Leadership Baker Horse Stalls Project:** Michele Paoletti reported on the May 19 BBQ held at the Show Barn. The group made \$900, and is currently at \$3,400 of their \$8,400 goal for the 4 horse stalls. They have submitted two grants, one with Leo Adler and the other with the D. Clarke fund. The group has until September to complete their project. Michele said some of the members are getting tired and their interest is waning. The board thanked Michele for the report and commented that they are doing a great job.

**Connie Pound Lewis:** Connie reported to the board that she is a grandmother and legal guardian of one of the 4H members, and that they did not get the 4H Premium check from the 4H Leader until March. Connie asked the board if a new check could be issued – she said it wasn't clear what the procedure was on getting and cashing 4H premium checks and that they weren't even aware that their granddaughter was issued one. The Board unanimously decided to reissue the check, due to other checks having been reissued past the deadline. The board discussed the new policy that will be in affect with the 2006 Fair, specifically that all premium checks will be voided after Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> if they have not been cashed by then.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mark and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob to accept the minutes with the following change: To delete the sentence "We need another \$50-\$65 to do the kitchen", page 2, under Event & Community Building Update. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Financial Documents:** The board approved the 351 Account bills for: Baxter & Flaming (\$2,158.50), Western Automatic Sprinkler (\$23,619.00) and Baker Electric (\$24,060.00). After all the financial documents were reviewed, Mark made the motion, and Rob 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the financial documents as submitted. The motion passed with all in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Leadership Baker Horse Stall Project:** After some discussion, Dean made the motion and Ann 2<sup>nd</sup> 'The Fair Board will donate \$500 to the horse stall project'. Mark made the recommendation to amend the motion to instead read 'The Fair Board will donate the last \$500 of the horse stall project funds needing to be raised with the understanding that the monies won't be released until all the other funds have been raised'. Ann 2<sup>nd</sup> the

**amendment. The motion passed with all in favor.** Further discussion included consensus on approaching the 4H Leaders Association to match our last \$500 for the project. The meeting will be June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Further discussion, Andi is to contact the building department to find out if a building permit is needed for the portable horse stalls.

**Open Ride Final Progress Report:** Sue & Rick Badgley, volunteer coordinators for the Open Rides in the Rodeo Grounds submitted a final report. Sue and Rick thanked the board for the opportunity to ride in the grounds during April and May. They heard positive comments about the program, and everyone was willing to clean up after their horses. Total participation was 33 riders on 13 evenings. Of that, 5 evenings had no riders due to poor weather. Consensus to date from the board is to repeat this program next spring. It's a great community service, and if the Badgley's are willing to coordinate the rides again, the board is supportive of the program.

**Motorcycle Rally Camping, Outcome:** The RV parks did not fill up and therefore camping was not needed at the fairgrounds on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Event & Community Building Update:** Mark reported that we still have a few minor things left with Phase I. The area is open and clean and approved for occupancy. For safety purposes, the accordion metal gate should be closed when the exhibit hall is in use and the office side is under construction. The next phase, Phase II is probably the most expensive portion of the project. The plumbing, kitchen, restrooms, electric and mechanical work for the office side and office framing are all part of Phase II. The kitchen and plumbing alone are probably \$125,000. We can't begin the work until significant amounts of money become available – \$10,000, \$20,000 and \$50,000 grants aren't going to get us immediate results. What we can do now is cut out the new windows and entrance to the exhibit hall. Another project would be the entrance canopy, which would be an open rafter/truss system, with connecting walkway and ADA access to the building, and is estimated to cost \$10,000 - \$15,000. The acoustics 'attenuation' project is estimated at \$5,000-\$6,000 to treat the walls with panels. After some discussion the board reached consensus on the next step, which is to pursue having the windows and entrance door work completed with an estimated cost of \$35,000. It was also recommended to contact OTEC to see if they have any grant programs for energy efficient windows. Mark mentioned that JeldWen might be a grant source for double casement or singlewide windows, with a vinyl system for retrofit. There was further discussion in regard to the future of this project. It seems that state monies should be available to counties for these types of projects. We know we are paying \$30,000 annually to operate the Extension Building, and over five years that amount would total \$150,000, not including further degradation of the building, a new heating system, and/or increased utility costs. The board decided that at the next meeting they would come up with a strategy to present to the county.

**Corner Lot:** It is estimated to cost \$5,000 to put in an irrigation system and grass at the corner lot. The board would like for the Lions club to take the lead on this, and come up with a plan for the system, since at last months' meeting Terry Schumacher said the Lions would be interested in doing the work, and that they had \$2,500 for the project and could probably get an additional \$2,500 from their regional organization. The board nominated Tony Britt to take the lead on the project. It was recommended that Tony contact Terry and convey the board's interest. A citizen had called the county commissioners wanting to know if he could take 2 – 3 gunny sacks of the fill that is being put on the lot. Since the fill is for a project, and public property, the answer is no.

**Elkhorn Spring Classic:** Ron shared with the board the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Elkhorn Spring Classic Steer and Heifer Show. The event was well attended, and went very smoothly. To date there is a carry over balance of \$670, but not all the bills have come in. Ron said the organizers should be commended for the work they did.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reissue of 2005 Fair Premium Check:** Covered during public comment period, with Connie Pound Lewis.

**Recap of May 22 Budget Hearings:** Andi and Ann attended the budget hearings. Changes to our budget included cutting the request for seasonal staff. The budget board wanted to know what the Extension Building is costing us to operate. Andi and Rob returned to the budget board with the information, and shared the \$30,000 annual operating costs. The Budget Board would like for us to get moved to Old Armory facility as soon as possible, and wanted to know what it would take in dollars and a timeline. Andi shared grant-writing efforts to date, yet grant dollars probably won't be forthcoming until the fall. The estimated cost of Phase II at this time is \$327,000. The perfect scenario would be for construction to be begin after the Fair, and for the move to take place this winter.

**Baker County Unlimited Friday Forum, June 9:** Andi, Mark and Rob will present phase II of the Event and Community Center project at the Friday Forum at the Sunridge.

**Electrical Problems – Beef Livestock Barn:** The new beef barn still has electrical problems – several circuits blew during the Elkhorn Spring Classic when participants were fitting beef. The southeast corner is heavily used, and there are 2 outlets per circuit. Recommendation is to change to 1 outlet per circuit. Rob will follow-up with Doug McCulley, the electrician who installed the current system. This was also an issue during the last fair, yet has not been fixed.

**Request for usage of Show Barn or Event Hall – Aug. 19 or 26<sup>th</sup>:** The republican committee would like to rent the Show Barn or Event Hall for a big reception with Greg Walden, Ron Saxton and Gordon Smith. The board felt both facilities would be available the week after fair, but the Old Armory/Event & Community Center building may be under construction shortly after that.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Andi Sexton, Fair Grounds Manager