

Baker County Fair Board

Minutes of May 5, 2011

Board Meeting

**Members Present:** Ron Rowan, Dean Defrees, Chris Dunn, Mark Johnson, Cynthia Norton

**Members Absent:** Ann Kniesel and Dan Morris

**Advisory Board Present:** Rob Ellingson, Carl Stiff

**Advisory Board Not Present:** Kristi Harris, Bob Savage, Janice Cowan

**Staff Present:** Colleen Taylor, Angie Turner

**Guests:** Marv Sumner and Bill Harmon

Chair Ron Rowan called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

**Correspondence:** Thank you card from Baker FFA for the use of the arena for the Tractor Pull, a letter from the City for Back Flow testing. Colleen gave a list of those available to complete the testing and requested a recommendation from the board. The board did not have a preference.

**Public Comment Period:** Bill Harmon and Marv Sumner presented the planned work list on the arena to be completed by the Bronc and Bull committee for approval by the Fair Board. Motion to approve the work planned made by Dean Defrees and seconded by Mark Johnson and approved by the board. Discussion was held on the possible other listed on the planned work, the first priority being the evaluation/work on the structural columns of the arena grandstand and the arena fencing. Colleen shared that the amount requested on the submitted 2011/2010 budget of \$30,000 had been deleted, however, with some changes on other budget lines in the expenses and income; there is a possible \$9600 available to begin some of the work. Final approval of the budget needs to occur first to be sure that amount will be available. Bronc and Bull shared that financially they would not be able to put the remaining \$21,000 toward the project; however, they would present it at the next meeting of the committee. They would be able to provide volunteer labor to assist. Bill Harmon spoke that he would take on the work of removing the old fence and replacing it. Mark will contact Tom Hanley for a consultation time. Mark will contact the board and Bill Harmon on the time of the meeting.

**MINUTES:** The minutes to the April 6, meeting was reviewed. Dean motion that the minutes be approved and Mark seconded, the motion was approved by the board.

**FINANCIALS:** The financials for April were reviewed. Chris Dunn moved that the financials be approved and the motion was seconded by Dean Defrees. The board approved the motion. Colleen also discussed the budget changes requested and the financial condition of the county at this time. The county is still looking at balancing the budget and is need of lowering the budget another \$136,000. Fred has asked each dept to look at their budget, and it may be necessary to take an additional 5% cut. The budget changes proposed for the fairgrounds have been reviewed with Christina Cook, and have

tentatively been approved by her office. The budget will still need to be approved by Fred Warner and the budget board.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Grant Request:** Colleen reported that grant work was on a standby until after the acoustic study is completed. The USDA grant will allow us to hold the remaining in the grant until after the acoustic study to see if some of the funds can be used for that phase. We are scheduled to receive the UPRR grant during the month of May. At spring conference, Colleen visited with Ford Foundation, and they are very supportive of community gathering sites and would like to see a grant application for the improvement of the acoustics.

**Acoustic Review:** The TSA agreement from CSHQA has been received. Ron signed the agreement and Colleen is to send it to Jim at CSHQA in the morning so that we can begin the study. Colleen is also to review the building plans sent by Jim Kauth for the building to be sure they are correct. Those plans will then be sent to CSHQA to assist with their evaluation.

**Community Garden:** Colleen reported that things were moving along on the garden. Plots are being assigned, the fence has been repaired, the larger areas have had the weeds loosen up on, Miller's tree service has been contacted for wood chips, and the Master Gardeners have provided a composting system. There is still a need for a storage shed. Colleen will be visiting with Thatcher's on the possibility of a donated shed. If that was not possible, Colleen requested permission to purchase a shed from Sears for \$399.00. Dean motioned that we purchase the shed if needed and Chris seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board. Colleen also shared that she would be making a presentation to the United Methodist Fellowship luncheon group on Friday, May 06, 2011, about the community garden and the fairground activities.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Weed Control:** Colleen and Bob Savage have been working with Arnie Grammon on the weed control of the fair grounds. Arnie is pleased to be able to use the fair grounds to clean his tanks and use spray that might otherwise need to be dumped. This arrangement is at no charge to the fair grounds. Arnie also discussed with Bob that he would not be able to spray under the crow's nest or the alley between the corrals. The Bronc and Bull committee stated that they would be able to take care of spraying that part of the fair grounds. Ken McPheron, Bob Savage, and Elmer Emele were able to do this. They were able to get this completed. Bob also has made arrangements with Stacie Erickson to have some of her community service individuals to clean up the leaves and dead weeds in the arena area so that those areas can then be sprayed.

**Spring Conference:** Colleen shared that the conference was at the Benton County fairgrounds. The Fair Commissioners met on changes to the annual report, discussion was held on the changes. The commissioners are now requiring an actual dollar amount to shown on the cost of producing the fair and that dollar amount must add up to the amount issued by the state to each county. The commissioners have also mandated that the counties must attend two meetings a year on the state

level, however, the state funds received cannot be used for travel expenditure. Spring Conference will be in Ontario next year, and our fair district (Malheur, Baker, Harney, and Grant) will be the host.

**Fair Preparation:** Colleen reported on the work completed for fair thus far. To date we have received a total sponsorship of \$5488.00, of that total, \$2528 is in cash and \$2960 in in-kind. Vendors that have been confirmed are a kettle corn, Tacos LaBrisa, Quality Concessions, Gluten Free Funnel Cakes and Scentsy. Contracts have been sent to Harts Reptile, Memory Lanes of Idaho, and Micro Stock Car Racing. The Elkhorn Archers and the Baker County Hunter Education will be returning also. We have partnered with Crossroads this year, and they will be bringing the Mudeye Puppet Company for Thursday morning, Friday's entertainment is lined up, the Talent Show will return on Wednesday evening. We are still working on Thursday's entertainment. Pee Wee trophies have been completed and were shown. The premium book should be ready to go to the Baker City Herald on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The judge contracts are also being mailed out.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 1, 2011, 6 PM for the regular scheduled meeting. Board members were also reminded that there will be a pre-fair meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup> with the 4-H Leaders.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

Respectively submitted,

Colleen Taylor