

# Madison County Commissioners

## Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 23, 2015

12:00 NOON

BLACKFOOT FAIR GROUNDS

### ATTENDEES

Commissioners: Chairman Kimber Ricks, Jon Weber and Todd Smith

### AGENDA TOPICS

*Budget meeting with Blackfoot Fair Board to discuss 2015/2016 budget and September fair.*

Minutes of the Eastern Idaho State Fair budget hearing held Friday, January 23, 2015 on the Fairgrounds in the Needlecraft building.

Representing the Fair were Fair Board members, George Hamilton, Roy Reed, Tom Barnes, Corey Foster, Regene Jones and Justin Oleson. Also present were Fair Employees Brandon Bird – Manager, Paula K. Maruji, Lyla Morgan, and Barry Adams – Grounds Superintendent. Auditors, Farrell Steiner and Stacey Scott, with Searle Hart & Associates.

Counties represented were:

Bannock	Franklin
Bear Lake	Fremont
Bingham	Jefferson
Bonneville	Madison
Butte	Power
Oneida	Teton
Clark	

Hamilton welcomed everyone, introduced the Board Members and staff and had the commissioners introduce themselves. Chairman Steve Hadley was not present, and Hamilton invited Commissioner Karl Anderson, Bannock County, to step in and preside over the meeting. The minutes from the January 24, 2014 meeting were presented for approval. The vote was unanimous.

Board of Director Roy Reed gave the invocation which was followed by lunch being served.

General Manager Brandon Bird gave a brief recap of the past years activities. The annual fair was successful with over 220,000 attendees. While it was not as financially successful

as the past two years, Bird felt it was still above average and would welcome the past years success for the next 10 years. Bird also called attention to the major improvement projects on the grounds which totaled over \$150,000. Over the past five years an effort has been made to adequately update and maintain the fair's facilities. 2013-15 accomplishments included a complete renovation and expansion of (1) men's restroom under the grandstand, new paving in the Rabbit Barn, Pari-Mutuel betting area and behind the Goddard Pavilion, new rain gutter on the south side of the Grandstand, re-surfaced rows 1 – 5 of section 1 & 4 in the grandstand, oil sealed the entire fairgrounds that remained from the 2013 seal coating, improved electrical code compliance, and many painting and improvement projects.

Bird then responded to questions from the Commissioners. Dave Radford, Bonneville County commented that having reviewed the financial information the trends look very good and thanked everyone with the fair for their work.

George Hamilton introduced Stacey Scott from Searle Hart & Associates, who presented the findings in the audit for 2013-14. Scott found the records clean and had no concerns or issues. The financial position of the fair continued to be improved as a result of 2014 activities. A key aspect of the financials was the selling of the Gem Stone Collection donated to the fair many years ago. Commissioner Radford along with other commissioners had questions about lessons learned from the donation. In the future the fair will do a better job ensuring the evaluation of donated items accurately reflects the market value of the donated items.

Included in Scott's presentation was the Management Report which resulted in a few questions answered by Scott, Steiner and Bird. Anderson called for a motion to accept the audit findings for 2013-14. Motion – Jon Weber (Madison). 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kelly Park (Teton). The vote was unanimous.

Bird then presented the proposed budget for 2014-15. Bird referred to the effective budgeting model that the fair has done over the past 5 years. Bird explained that the budget underestimates revenue and over projects expenses to ensure they run in the black. The proposed budget includes over \$125,000 in renovation and maintenance projects. Based on the proposed budget, the fair will use \$50,780 from its reserves leaving nearly \$1.9 million in its reserves.

Bird turned the time over to the board to offer comments about the budget. Most noting their appreciation for the support that the fair receives from the 16 counties. Justin Oleson, Board of Director from Blackfoot, then presented the need for the fair to build a new Beef and Goat barn. Both barns have structural issues that at best will require tens of thousands to renovate. The new barn would combine both the Goat and Beef Barn together. The new barn was scheduled to be part of the 2014-15 budget but has been moved to 2015-16 to better address the financial impact it will have on the fair. Depending on the final plans of the project it is estimated that the cost would be between \$750,000 and \$1.0 million to build and furnish the facility.

Director Oleson referred to the discussion with the commissioners at the past annual meeting where commissioners asked for specific projects they could participate in. Oleson asked that the 16 Counties consider how they can plan in 2016 to make larger annual contributions to the fair. After much discussion and questions it was concluded that there was little support for additional money from the counties.

John Weber (Madison) talked about the success Madison County had in its fundraising efforts for its centennial celebration in 2013. The centennial committee raised significant monies by setting up booths and prominent events and approaching the community to help with its identified goals. After much discussion about becoming more aggressive with fundraising it was agreed that a Work Group consisting of Commissioners, Fair Board Members, Fair Management meet together 3 times a year to build on the regions resources and relationships that could generate significant donations to the fair's capital projects. Bird will invite all commissioners to an initial meeting in the next four months.

Karl Anderson (Bannock) then called for a vote to approve the 2014-15 Eastern Idaho State Fair Budget. Motion – Lee Staker (Bonneville), 2<sup>nd</sup> the Motion – Seth Beal (Butte) all were in favor.

The final item of business was the election of a President to represent the 16 Counties for the next year. Karl Anderson called for the re-election of Steve Hadley (Bannock) to remain as President. Motion - Dave Radford (Bonneville), Jon Weber 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all were in favor.

The meeting was adjured at 1:20. The next Annual Budget Meeting for the Eastern Idaho State Fair will be January 22, 2016.

The Eastern Idaho State Fair will be held September 5 – 12, 2015.

Approved:

Kimber Ricks, Commission Chairman  
Jon Weber, Commissioner  
Todd Smith, Commissioner