

Blaine County Fair Board meeting,
Thursday, July 2, 7:00pm at the fairgrounds

In attendance: Vice President John Skoyen, Dale Williams, Loren Skoyen, Mike Copenhaver, Linda Ortner *ex officio*, Secretary Wendy Warburton, Laine Jorgenson. President Don Richman presided over the meeting via conference call.

Minutes of the last meeting had been emailed and read so the board dispensed with the reading of the minutes. John moved to approve the minutes as emailed. Loren seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Updated budget files will not be in until July 10.

The Premium Money Account at First Bank of Montana currently holds \$1,605.98. Wendy reported she had requested the check for the coming fair, so next week \$ 3,500.00 will be added into this account from the fair board budget to pay for project entry premiums, same as last year.

Public Comment

Laine Jorgenson reported that everything is on track for the Milk River Challenge open rodeo on Sunday night of the fair. They are still rounding up sponsors, and find that it is tough timing just after the fair and so close to the Bear Paw Roundup rodeo. They are hoping next year will be less of a struggle. She said they have quite a few pre-entries, and some additional participants will enter the day of the event. Wendy got the wristbands ordered. Laine wanted to coordinate with the board on the timing of the rodeo events and the fair's pig wrestling event. The barrel racing and team roping slack will be in the morning on Sunday and the stock contractors want to run the stock through the arena ahead of time so they know where the gates are. Don and Laine talked and agreed that if the stock is done by 3:00 or 3:30 that will work. Double D Pig Wrestling arrives 2 hours

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361060 MISCFILE Pages: 7
STATE OF MONTANA BLAINE COUNTY
RECORDED: 08/03/2015 8:00 KOI: MINUTES
SANDRA L. BOARDMAN CLERK AND RECORDER
FEE: \$0.00 BY *Sandra L. Boardman*
TO: BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONS

ahead of the pig wrestling event. John asked if the mud from pig wrestling would cause the rodeo any issues in the arena. Laine said as long as they work it up and it is not soaking the entire arena it shouldn't be a problem -- as long as it can be kept off the barrel markers and not right in front of the chutes. The board discussed having the wash-off area outside the arena, possibly in the corner where the pig wrestling used to be. Don said he would be in touch with Moxley Construction about that.

Laine had nothing new to report on the new indoor arena building project, except that she had talked to Dirk with the Road Dept. about going to get the box, likely taking a loader over to get it and put it at the fairgrounds where it can be stored inside somewhere. John told her to have them put it in the Quansit after the fair.

Old business

Sweet Home road: nothing new to report.

Fairgrounds Drainage and water issues: nothing new to report.

Upcoming events:

- FAIR JULY 9-12
- Moxley wedding Aug 1
- FFA Dance Aug 8, tentative (fee was waived at an earlier meeting due to all their work on fixing up the beer garden seats)
- Truck Pulls Aug. 15
- Sugarbeet Festival Sept 25-27
- Gun Show Oct 1-4

Events Center/Kitchen: nothing new to report.

Building repairs/maintenance: Wendy asked the board to plan to fix the support under the fair office deck before the fair and inquired about the pig washing drain that had clogged at one time and had been discussed previously. Dale clarified that all that needs is for somebody to clean out the trap and the 4-H pig project folks take care of that. Darius plans to fix the threshold going into Ag Building so it is not a tripping hazard. He has already smoothed out the gravel between the buildings. John said Darius is welcome to use his tractor and leveler if he needs to; it is parked at the fairgrounds.

Budget: No new, updated budget report files are in until July 10, but Wendy gave a quick overview of some of the bigger expenses since last month: \$1400 for wood chips to CHS/Milk River Co-op., approx.. \$1,000 to Harlem Lumber for bleachers repair supplies, fair office cooler, etc. Approx. \$1,000 this month to Ace Hardware for paint and painting supplies, repair supplies, etc., approx.. \$480 reimbursement to Wendy for the ordering of the fair board uniform shirts, Vistaprint business cards, and all the event wristbands that had to be ordered on her credit card. There will also be money due to Wendy for the Facebook advertising that also had to be paid by credit card, but that bill won't come in until after the fair when all the Facebook ad campaigns have completed and the bill comes in. More details will show up on our July DLQ report when it comes in on July 10th. Wendy also reported that she had requested the checks to pay the fair entertainers. Those will straddle the budget year: Marty Severson (Sound Guy, \$5,500), Pippi the Clown (\$2550), Two Way Crossing (\$5,500), John Dunnigan (\$1,900), The Bad Larry's (\$1,500), Freckle Farm Petting Zoo & Pony Rides (\$3,000), Double D Hog Wrestling (\$4,500), and of course the Carnival that is somewhat of a question mark until after the fair when all the tickets, etc. have been sold. A lot of the advertising bills also come in sometime later in July after the fair, for the radio, newspaper, etc. advertising.

Plans for the 2015 fair [July 9-12, 2015]: Wendy is supposed to contact Lorraine Brockie at Fort Belknap Monday afternoon and meet with her Tuesday to do the Presale tickets. Two Fort Belknap programs contacted Wendy directly to let her know they were planning to reserve 80 of the tickets. Sherry McKay of Paradise Amusements is supposed to have them overnighted today so that we have them tomorrow to have the \$17,500 worth in time for Fort Belknap, and also have about 300 extras to get out to some local businesses again like last year: Finley's Food Farm, Town Pump, Richman Insurance, Normans in Havre. The board suggested Wendy also ask Gary & Leo's IGA in Havre. Wendy will have the radio ads include the presale ticket locations once they are distributed.

Don called Ron Bruski today to put some fair promotions in his Richman Insurance ads today, too. Don will call and ask them to play Two Way Crossing's music. Wendy will find out if KGVA is playing Two Way Crossing's music yet.

Wendy is working on helping the carnival coordinate the hiring of local workers for the carnival, and has been contacted by 19 interested people so far, but still

awaiting the interview date/time with Sherry McKay's niece, who will be the carnival manager here.

John said Chet said we could use his hammer for the tent stakes.

Wendy reported that we've got our ticket takers, barn superintendents, judges, etc. all pretty much lined up. We have 98 confirmed derby sponsors so far with more calls out that were awaiting a response on, and we may be able to add a few next week as time allows.

John said Scott Skoyen got ahold of Teddy Powell and he said we could get all the sand we need for the arena. They asked Dan Moxley if they could borrow a trailer to haul it, and Dan volunteered to haul it in for us. They figure we need 33 truckloads, for the 3 ft. high berm. That will get evened out over the arena when it's all done. They plan to haul in on back side of the arena Friday, leaving the front side to be hauled in after the night show. The sand will all be spread out by 10am Sunday for the rodeo slack. The board discussed whether it may be necessary to move the 4-H showmanship events to the Little Arena. Wendy will talk to Maureen Schmitt to coordinate on that possibility.

Don noted that we as a board should do something to thank Powells and Moxleys for that huge and valuable donation. The board discussed utilizing the idea of the big advertising signs that will go on the back of the grandstands. The first sample sign/s could be for them and that would also spark interest in other businesses to purchase signs.

Mike had emailed Heather DePriest and asked her to get ahold of Wendy with prices for big signs like that, but it's very doubtful that they could be done by the fair. Wendy hadn't heard from Heather yet. Mike said the signs are on plastic cardboard, "signboard", with a plastic coating on it so it can stay on the building year-round. We should get Moxley Construction, Pike and Red Rock comp signs done and put up and then figure out after the fair exactly how much to sell the other spaces for. The school charges \$750 a year for the football field and the gym signs.

Wendy was asked to provide complimentary tickets for them to all of the Grandstands/Arena events at the fair this year as a thank-you and send a card from the fair board "In appreciation for all that you do for the fairgrounds."

Wendy reported that Dawn Colby had worked with Heather DePriest and the Blaine County Journal, and this year we will have a nice demo derby program to hand out, 1,000 copies. All tickets, wristbands, and beer tickets are in and organized (except the beer garden over 21 wristbands that Jeff Finley will be getting for free from the beer distributor).

Gerald Stiffarm contacted Wendy to let the board know he cannot attend tonight's meeting due to challenges with the heat and the KGVA radio station equipment but wanted to at least call in this report and asked Wendy to share it with the fair board:

- He talked to Lorraine Brockie this afternoon. All the programs at Ft. Belknap are interested in helping but most are still processing their paperwork. They have to go through a process. She is giving them until next Tuesday to get that wrapped up. Gerald said it sounded like she would likely just cut us one check from Tribal government to the fair board and she'll collect from all the individual programs herself so that we don't have to handle all those details.
- Liz Werk and the other two Extension employees at Ft. Belknap plan to be here Thursday to decorate their commercial building booths and put up a Ft. Belknap community booth in the Ag hall.
- Pet & Doll Parade: Gerald had already had \$300 cash donated from local businesses to award to kids who participate so they can buy treats at the fair. Cheryl Horn has also found 5 more sponsors since then from \$200-\$500 for prizes and/or to buy tickets to the carnival.
- Pastor Bruce Plummer is planning to bring about 60 volunteers who will be here from North Carolina to help with the tepee village setup and attend the fair Friday night.
- Mike Weasel and Gerald plan to come take a look at the flagpoles next week, and Gerald said Mike has veterans lined up to help put up the flags. We have the American, Montana, and 4-H flags in the fair office, and Mike will bring the College and Reservation seals that Gerald has.

Wendy talked to Pippi the Clown and she said she would be willing to lead the Pet & Doll parade so Wendy tentatively scheduled her from 11am-3pm daily, Fri-

Sun., and plans to have John Dunnigan later in the day, but before the concert Friday, and Saturday later in the day mostly after Pippi with not too much overlap.

The board asked Wendy to order a plaque and flowers to present to the Ammen family in honor of Bill's 45 years of service on the fair board, similar to what was done to honor George Ortner last year. Don will make sure Glenna Ammen attends the concert, and we will award it between the opening act and the main act. Wendy is to let the bands know.

New Business

Preparing for the fair.

Per Connie Murphy, we NEED a fair evacuation plan before the fair. What we need to know, where to meet up, send people, how to evacuate people, etc. John will ask Hailey Gustitis to help with writing this.

John reported that Dennis Kleinjain said he will donate whatever type of metal sculpture the board would like, to hang from the new archway that he and Loren put in by the Rodeo Arena. Dennis' son has a computerized plasma cutter. After the fair we can decide what we want to do.

Linda has recently been on a long road trip and reports that from Chinook you can drive to Layton, UT, the location of this November's fair convention, in one day. It is a decent drive if you can get over Monlda pass without any ice. In the past, counties have sometimes organized a bus with other counties.

Wendy is to make the hotel reservations for Convention in November RIGHT AWAY. Dale is not sure if he will be going. The board would also like to invite a county commissioner to attend again this year, if they like; we might ask if they can cover their travel costs.

Wendy is to email Linda the list of commercial building vendors so she can work on the layout. She will work on setting up the building Tuesday.

Loren will come down to the fairgrounds Monday and put the building signs up. Loren will be back later in the day on Tuesday.

Mike will bring his camper down to the fairgrounds on Monday.

At 5:00 Tuesday Dale will be at the fairgrounds to put the sheep barn together. He will also help Darius measure out the parking spaces.

John will be gone on Weds the 8th but available by phone.

John asked that Wendy have the boys haul that big pile of wire by the new pipe gate and old posts out there and by the rodeo office out to dump.

Wendy is to work on contacting local CDL drivers and/or the CDL program at Ft. Belknap for any interested drivers to help haul carnival rides. Board members suggested she try Scott DePriest, Ian Davies, Frank DePriest, Danny Skoyen, and Dan Mitchell, for starters. We will have to figure out someone to give them a ride over to Kalispell to get the trucks and rides, too.

Dale would like to put some of old bleacher boards in bottoms of manure boxes to make them easier to clean out. The board agreed but John suggested we think about getting concrete bottoms installed in the future.

Don apologizes that he has been sick and gone but appreciates having a board that "just stands up and takes it on and gets it done. Thank you very much!"

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting 2nd Thursday of August, (August 13th) at 7:00 pm. Then Sept 12th there will be a meeting of Hilline counties in Lewistown to establish a carnival route.