

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLUMAS-SIERRA COUNTY FAIR BOARD
January 26, 2011

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Hughes calls the meeting of the Plumas-Sierra County Fair Board of Directors to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Serpilio Hall at the Plumas-Sierra County Fair Grounds. Directors Chance, Goss, Hughes, Johnson, Olson, Neer, and Viscarra are present. Director Butterfield was tardy, but excused. Director Abbott was absent and excused. Fair Manager John Steffanic is present. Administrative Assistant Willo Vieira is present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Viscarra makes motion to approve the agenda for January 26, 2011. Motion seconded by Director Johnson, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

December 8, 2010

Motion is made by Director Johnson to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting. Motion seconded by Director Goss. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC

Lori Simpson, Supervisor District 4; Rick and Katie Roberti; Veronica Tilton, and Lisa Smith, Vice President, Plumas-Sierra Junior Livestock Sale Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lisa Smith, Vice President of the Plumas-Sierra Junior Livestock Committee, expressed concern over the possible limitation of market livestock weights. She also read a letter from Rhonda Grandi, President of the Plumas-Sierra Junior Livestock Committee, expressing her feelings that the weights should not be limited. Ms. Smith also said that she would like to see the beef loin eye data available for the beef judge's use.

Mr. Rick Roberti spoke regarding changing the Market Beef language from Group 1, 2, or 3 to Mart Ready or Not Market Ready. Chairperson Hughes directs to have the item placed on the February agenda as an action item.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from the California Department of Food and Agriculture regarding New F&E Budget Policies was recognized and read into the minutes.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Financials-

Fair Manager Steffanic reviewed the financial reports with the Board commenting that there had not been much activity for the month of December. The Fair currently had \$46,800.00 cash in hand. Chairperson Hughes inquired as to how soon the financials could be received each month so the Board could ask timely questions regarding the fiscal reports.

Mid Year Budget –

Manager Steffanic reported that the fair is anticipating a \$57, 000.00 cash short fall. The budget will be \$77,000.00 short to the unbudgeted expense of the extra two months worked

by the Maintenance Employee and the accrued vacation time that needed to be bought out. A letter regarding the probable budget shortfall has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. Chairperson Hughes requested that the Fair Board Finance Committee be convened and brought into the loop as soon as budget information becomes available.

Fair U-

Fair U will be held on February 26th from 9-2 pm. An anonymous donor has provided \$1,000.00 to put on this program to foster entries in the fair. Topics will include crocheting, flower arranging, soap making, plants, and food preservation.

Film Festival-

A grant request was submitted to the Board of Supervisors in cooperation with Plumas Arts to obtain economic development money to put on the event. The Board of Supervisors offered \$4,000.00. Plumas Arts and the Fair decided this amount would be sufficient to hold a one day event. Manager Steffanic commented that festivals are the way to go to generate funds for fairs. Events must be generated by the fair in order for the fair to make money.

Convention Wrap up-

Manager Steffanic found the WFA Convention to be very upbeat, given the economic situation and educational. Oran Morrison encouraged the Board members to attend next year's event as a way to network with Board members from other fairs and as a good way to learn more about the current fair industry.

Fair Planning Update-

Bill the Magician, a Juggler, Puppets and Players Marionettes, and the Swan Brother Circus will be coming this year. A full schedule of local bands is also planned for the Plumas Bank Stage. Director Chance is still talking with American Valley Speedway about the possibility of a demolition derby or enduro race.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Chance reported on the electrical outage and the efforts that he and fair staff made to get the generator hooked into the Serpilio Hall and the Mineral Building.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Junior Exhibitor Fees

After discussion Fair Fiscal Officer Tedford was directed to research the fiscal impact of eliminating entry fees. Ms. Tedford also brought to the Board attention the possibility that the Auditors would be taking over the issuing of premium checks and that they would require each person, including children, to fill out a W-9 form. Supervisor Simpson encouraged the Board to invite the Auditor to explain the process in person. After additional public comment this item was tabled by a motion from Director Olson and a second by Director Chance. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Olson makes a motion to move the meeting to the Upstairs Boardroom. Motion seconded by Director Viscarra and motion is carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:57 to reconvene in the Boardroom at the Main Office.

Meeting reconvened by Chairperson Hughes at 5:08 pm with all Board Members present as stated in the initial role call. Ms. Mona Hill of Feather Publishing arrives.

B. Livestock Awards

After discussion and input from the public Director Johnson recommends that the Board form a Livestock Award Committee to work through the issues surrounding this item. Director Viscarra makes a motion to form a Livestock Award Committee with a second from Director Neer. Director Johnson is named as Chair with Directors Neer, Viscarra, and Goss to also serve on the committee. The committee is directed to formulate a plan and report back to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

A. State Funding Update

Manager Steffanic reported to the Board that Governor Brown's proposed budget recommends that all fair funding be eliminated 100%. Steve Chambers, WFA President, felt that fairs would get some funding but not their full funding in the final budget. If the governor's budget goes through as is 30 – 40 rural fairs are in danger of closing. The Fair is currently covered through this fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The budget presented to the County for the new fiscal year must reflect the 0% allotment from the state. This stated the Fair will happen. The exhibits, food concessions, and carnival will come. What may be impacted will be the entertainment and the services such as gold carts and manure removal. Chairperson Hughes asked the Finance Committee to also cover this issue during their meeting.

B. Electrical Crisis Update

The Fair Board was apprised by Manager Steffanic of the electrical box in Old Town that shorted and caught on fire. As PG&E's responsibility for the lines ends at the edge of the Fairgrounds the Fair will be responsible for the cost of repairs and securing a qualified electrician for the job. Manager Steffanic will be going before the Board of Supervisors to secure the additional funding necessary for the repairs. The Serpilio Hall, Tulsa Scott Pavilion, and the Mineral Building are running off of the emergency back up generator thanks to the efforts of Director Chance, Jerry Meese and Oran Morrison. The generator is going through a lot of propane and repairs are not expected until late February or early March. Chairperson Hughes requested that a weekly e-mail be sent to the Directors and especially when something of this nature happens.

C. Elks Beer Contract

Manager Steffanic met with the Elks to discuss the tapping fees and reporting of kegs used. It was agreed to raise the tapping fee to \$100.00 per keg and agreed to a 30% commission after 2013. The current contract does not address a commission on wine and wine coolers.

D. State Audit

The California Division of Fairs & Expositions Audit Draft Report of fair accounting practices has returned Manager Steffanic was happy to report that the number of findings had decreased for this year. This year's auditor sent the report addressed to the Board of

Supervisors instead of to the Fair Board as the Board of Supervisors has the ultimate financial responsibility.

E. Livestock Showmanship

After a brief discussion Director Olson presented a motion to create an overall showmanship class to include the top three exhibitors from each showmanship class. Director Johnson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

F. Market Livestock Weights

Based on information provided by the Livestock Sale Committee representatives regarding their meat processor it was moved by Director Viscarra to ignore the letter from the Pork Producers Board regarding the limiting of hogs weights and maintain the current weight criteria. Director Butterfield seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

G. Market Livestock Judge Information

After discussion the item was tabled until the February 23, meeting.

H. East Quincy Services District Water Distribution Project

Chairperson Hughes presented the proposed water project by East Quincy Services District. This project will result in a high volume water supply and new fire hydrants on the Fairgrounds. Director Viscarra moved to approve the proposed project, Director Chance seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn is made by Director Viscarra and seconded by Director Abbott. Motion is carried unanimously. The Regular meeting of the Plumas-Sierra County Fair Board will be held on February 23, 2011 at 4:00 pm in the Serpilio Hall at the Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

I, WILLO VIEIRA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THESE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2011 MEETING OF THE PLUMAS-SIERRA COUNTY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE ACCURATE AS RECORDED.

Willo Vieira
Administrative Assistant

John Steffanic
Fair Manager

Howard Hughes, Chairperson
Plumas-Sierra County Fair Board