

Special Meeting of

Madison County Commissioners, Fair Board, University of Idaho Extension and Jr. Livestock Committee

May 3, 2016

7:00 pm

Madison High School

Attendance: Luke Erickson, Scott Nash, Kandee Boice, Todd Smith, Tammy Erickson, Shane Wright, Val Johnson, Jon Weber

Commissioner Weber, acting as Chairman, welcomed and expressed appreciation to all in attendance and their willingness to volunteer.

Items for discussion:

- Communication between boards and committees
- Reporting structure
- Memorandum of Agreement between different entities

Commissioner Weber said if there are issues stemming from the board, committees and the fair, the Commissioners will hear about it.

The Fair board organization includes a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and 7 members. Commissioner Weber asked where the 4-H/Extension and Livestock Committee fits in this equation. As the livestock Committee Chair, Val responded. The Livestock Committee is responsible for the livestock in the livestock barn during the fair. They make rules as a committee for the livestock, including horses involved in the 4-H and FFA programs. They are currently reviewing the livestock rules. Their goal is to make the County Fair better by educating students and youth participants. Val feels that the Livestock Committee is their own entity and that they are not governed by the Fair board.

Commissioner Weber asked how committee members are selected for the Livestock Committee. Currently, the committee comes up with names to submit to the Fair board then the board selects the committee members.

Commissioner Weber said that the old Fair board was very rooted in the traditions of the past. They did a great job, however the new Fair board is going in a different direction and the Commissioners are 100% committed to the Fair board.

Commissioner Smith reviewed the history of the Livestock Committee. He said that in the last 8-10 years, everything associated with the livestock program was done through the Extension/4-H office. Gayle and Carole gave the information to Pat Cook who in turn would send out checks to the youth. At some point Gayle turned it over to the Livestock Committee, which would indicate the sale is the responsibility of the Extension office.

Scott Nash (District 4-H) said that because the name of the Livestock Committee (Madison County 4-H and FFA Market Animal and Livestock Committee) includes the name of 4-H, the by-laws say it must be under the advisory role of the Extension office.

Luke asked for clarification of the role between the Fair board, Commissioners and Livestock Committee.

Commissioner Weber said the Fair board is advisory to the Commissioners and the Commissioners oversee the Fairground employees. If issues arise, they will manage personnel issues under the advice of the Fair board. The Fair board can't force a change, it must be voted on by the committee.

Scott provided the history of the 4-H/Extension organization. He said they are organized under the USDA, Land Grant Universities Extension, 4-H.

As the acting Vice Chair of the Fair board Shane said the Fair board was under the impression that the Livestock Committee submitted names to invite new members. Since the Livestock Committee is a sub-committee of the Fair board, they have final say in the Livestock Committee's rulings. Another incident that led them to believe that the Fair board oversees the Livestock Committee was the request and granting of monies used to purchase new fair software.

Shane reiterated several times that the Fair board feels that they want this to be a good experience for the kids. The Fair board promotes the livestock sale as they are out in the community gathering sponsorships. The fair committee submits a budget which is approved by the board. Any contracts with the County for the fair must be submitted and signed by the Commissioners. The Fair board is the first to hear about any complaints from the community so they work hard to make sure all goes smoothly.

Scott indicated that it sounds like the Livestock Committee and Extension/4-H were already working as a partnership. He suggested an MOU to help continue this partnership and alleviate future concerns and issues.

Kandee said part of the misunderstanding stems from the transition from the old Fair board to the new one. Prior to the current Fair board, she would go to a Fair board meeting and request the funds or assistance, not a budget. The purchase of the software was not from a budget, and consisted of contributions from the Livestock Committee, FFA, the 4-H office, the Fair board and a donation by a leader. Currently, a budget is submitted for what is needed; that budget comes from the Commissioners through the Fair board.

Commissioner Weber said his understanding is that livestock is independent from the Fair board and the Extension/4-H office acts as an advisor to the committee. Kandee said it is important to still work together in a partnership and the livestock committee should take the Fair board's concerns into consideration when making decisions.

There was concern raised about who is responsible for the upgrades needed at the Fairgrounds stemming from program growth such as last year's pig panels. Shane said the Fair board spent a great deal of time on that, and he and his crew were there for 2 weeks. Kandee said that 4-H youth and clubs were also involved by working at the rodeo to help fund the upgrades.

Shane said the decision to resale animals is the responsibility of the livestock committee not the Fair board. He said the Fair board does not agree with the resale because animals are being sold back as breeders, stated in fair rules as "not allowed". Val responded that the position of the livestock committee is that the sale is a terminal sale. He said it is not our responsibility to police what happens to the animals after they leave the fairgrounds. It is possible that the floor buyer would raise the price of the same animal and sell it to a breeder prior to killing it. Currently, the Livestock Committee is able to run financially independent of the Fair board without a line item in the County budget because of the sale. Each resale buyer is charged \$25 (sheep), \$50 (hogs, beef) to purchase off the floor. This money funds the advertising, thank you ad and other expenses of the livestock committee.

Commissioner Smith said that during the fair, the Livestock Committee is responsible for the livestock rules and exhibits and the Fair board is responsible for the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Smiths indicated that there may be a need to include a line item in the budget for fairground and facility growth updates. The improvements will be at the discretion of the Fair board.

Luke explored other ways to solve this problem such as limiting participation or managing the growth in a way that it can work with the growth of the facility.

Commissioner Weber said that we would get an MOU written up between all parties so that everyone understood the direction and responsibilities. The Livestock Committee, Fair board and Extension office will review the MOU and make changes until it meets everyone's approval.

Tammy asked if she was supposed to be a voting member of the Livestock Committee since she is on the Fair board. Scott said according to the by-laws, Fair board members can be on the Livestock Committee and participate in a vote. If she is unable to attend, another member of the Fair board can and vote in her place.

Commissioner Weber announced that the Fair board has begun a study on upgrading and refurbishing the fairgrounds. They have asked the Commissioners to assist with the study by contributing \$25,000; however this has not yet been approved. Commissioner Weber reiterated that the Commissioners support the Fair board and 4-H/FFA programs.

Adjourn 8:15 pm