



Board of Directors- Minutes September 8th, 2025

RJF Mission Statement: "Promoting the advancement of local youth through agriculture, industrial education, and recreational activities and exhibits."

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- 1) Called to Order by President Jeff Becker at 6:35pm
- 2) Flag Salute
- 3) Roll Call of Directors
- a) **Directors present:** Jeff Becker, Travis Scott, Mandy Garner, Diane Collins, Stacy Pate, Michelle Scott, Victoria Stanley, Cindi Zeigler, Scott Weller, and Carolyn Audibert
- b) **Directors excused:** Connor Nelson and Kelsey Weller
- c) **Members present:** Stacey Nelson, Laird Nelson, Russ Christensen, Christine Snyder, Kim Newcomber, Dani Upson, Jennifer Salim, Jo Weller, Bella Pate, Taytum Stanley, Jasmine King, Chuck Dilts, Jasper Dilts, Kristy Parker, and Lori Scott
- d) **Guests present:** Katie Ostrander, Kristy Conway, Jeanine Hawkins, Kristen Blackburn, Guy Buchanan, and Rocky Morris
- 4) Jeff Becker presented the September agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda as read. Motion/Second: Stacy Pate/Michelle Scott. Discussion: None. Motion passes unanimously.
- 5) Jeff Becker presented the July minutes for review. A motion was made to approve the minutes as read. Motion/Second: Mandy Garner/Stacy Pate. Discussion: none. Motion passes unanimously.
- 6) Open Forum: None
- 7) Officer Reports
  - a) **President:** Jeff states already mentioned earlier, will go over fair review tonight and explained process of the evening. Checks and pictures being handed out tonight.
  - b) **Vice President:** No report
  - c) **Secretary:** No report
  - d) **Treasurer:** Scott Weller presented the July Treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve the July treasurer's report with a beginning balance on all accounts as of July 1<sup>st</sup>: \$81,779.81 and an ending balance as of July 31<sup>st</sup>: \$81,164.71. Motion/Second: Travis Scott/Michelle Scott. Abstained: Scott Weller. Discussion: None. Motion passes with one abstention. Scott presented the August Treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve the August report with a beginning balance on all accounts as of August 1<sup>st</sup>: \$81,164.71 and an ending balance as of August 31<sup>st</sup>: \$248,262.93. Motion/Second: Travis Scott/Mandy Garner. Abstained: Scott Weller. Discussion: none. Motion passes with one abstention.
  - e) **Fair Administrator:** Diane shares a big thank you to all that helped during the fair and for being patient. Jeff agrees and reiterates the thanks.
  - f) **Fair Clerk:** Stacy shares same feelings as Diane and says thank you to all that helped with the fair.
  - g) **Board Members:** No report
  - h) **Youth Directors:** No Report
  - i) **Livestock Superintendent:** Carolyn thanks Jasper and Tank for all their help during the fair as livestock superintendent assistants. States she thought everything went well. Christine Snyder thanks Carolyn for her attentiveness and states she felt she did a great job.
- 8) Standing Committee Reports
  - a) **Scholarship Committee:** Michelle states some of the scholarship winners are collecting checks already. Kristen states the banners for the winners were great.
  - b) **Budget Committee:** No report
  - c) **Auction Committee:** No report
  - d) **Steering Committee:** No report. Jeff states Kelsey and Connor did a great job.
  - e) **Rules & Premiums Committee:** No report

- f) **Awards Committee:** No report. Victoria states brought the buckles to go with the checks tonight.
- 9) Ad-Hoc Committee Report
- a) **Chamber of Commerce Committee:** No report
  - b) **Community Advisory Committee:** No report
  - c) **Construction and Grounds Development Committee:** No report
  - d) **Computer Committee:** No report
  - e) **Camping & Security Committee:** No report
  - f) **Fair Marketing & Education Committee:** No report
  - g) **Pie Auction & BBQ Committee:** No report
  - h) **Grants Committee:** No report
  - i) **After Auction Committee:** Jeff states think we made about \$16,000 for after auction.
  - j) **Ground Rentals:** Jeff states there are a couple groups that are already on the calendar for ground rental.

10) New Business: **Discussion of Fair Review per day:**

**Friday-Horse Show:** Christine Snyder states show went well and things were resolved quickly. Had more people than last year and has some minor adjustments to make for next year (time wise) which will make it smoother. Communication with everyone was great and the arena was great. Ensured everything was picked up and cleaned up after the show. Really liked having it the day before fair move-in and would like to stick with that schedule in the future if possible.

**Saturday-Dog Show:** Mrs. Deponte felt like the dog show was a challenge, as it takes all day. Felt like the kids were running back and forth because some were showing rabbits/poultry. Asking for the possibility of moving dog show to another day, maybe Thursday. Needs further discussion for next fair.

**\*Poultry Knowledge Bowl/Rabbit/Cavy:** No discussion. **\*Home Ec:** Kim states it went well. Wants to figure out a way to print the tags vs stickies. Guy states would like to move the industrial arts deadline forward a week, giving more time to set up Saturday morning. Jeff states if we moved that up a week, we would have to move every entry up a week. Stacy states try to open entries right after Del Mar. Can discuss further if the premium book can be released earlier, but entries may be harder to move up r/t certain dates of things and ownership of animals. Russ states historically get the book out by April 15<sup>th</sup> which gives kids more time. States entries is a little different, but in past thinks they opened July 1<sup>st</sup>. Kim asks if there is a way to do a sign-up link, making it easier to check in exhibitors re: Home Ec duty.

**Sunday-Pygmy goats:** Kristy Conway states the rule of having a minimum of 3 exhibitors in a class to qualify for a premium is atypical from what she has seen at other fairs. States they usually get awarded premiums regardless of class size. To encourage more participation, possibly think about changing the rule. Jeff states can discuss it further. Lori Scott states other fairs are government funded, ours isn't, which is a reason it was put into place. Kristy also states the pygmy judge had never judged pygmy goats before and is asking to ensure judges know what they are doing. Michelle Scott states has been discussed to bring in a second goat judge. **\*Tack Move-In:** Kristy states on the fair event schedule, trailer move-in wasn't on there. Asking to add it for next year. Jasmin states her sheep group wasn't given a spot to groom and was told they didn't because they got a tack pen, which isn't big enough to groom. Wants to ensure each group gets an area for grooming moving forward. \*Kim asked about porta potty locations.

**Monday-Animal Move-In:** Jeff asked how everyone liked the adjusted times. People liked the fast weigh-in, cooler weather, and liked the time change. Travis states he liked having a vet there. Jeanine Hawkins asks if kids can come prior to fair week to help animals with anxiety. Stacy states Kahoots holds a pre-fair clinic where kids can bring animals to the fairgrounds, show, weigh them, etc. Travis states he welcomes groups to utilize the grounds to bring their animals at monthly club mtgs or at any time, just reach out to him. **\*Opening Ceremonies:** Jeff states the whole month of July, had so many kids and parents to help with set up and was amazed. Ran out of steering committee shirts. Kristy Conway is asking, if possible, to do a pre-order of fair shirts that are sold during the fair. Cindi discussed the requirements for kids to get a steering committee shirt. Stacey Nelson thought the turn out for the movie night was great. Kristy Conway says was a little disappointed that there was a

schedule change for the slip and slide, as her kids didn't get to do it. Cindi states it was because all the kids showed up early, so decided to just do it instead of waiting until the time posted. Kristy and Katie thought the time for opening ceremonies was great.

**Tuesday-Sheep/Goat Show:** Katie felt time was fine but felt there was a lot of running back and forth. Suggests keeping breed and market separate, so do all goat show together and then sheep show all together vs breaking them up. Jo Weller states she thought it was nice to have the shows broken up, so kids get a break in between. Stacey Nelson thought judge was very kind. She liked how she took the time to talk to one of her sheep exhibitors. States it mean so much to him to be recognized.

**Wednesday-Swine:** Many liked the change of splitting the shows during the day. Jeanine Hawkins asked if showmanship could be in the am r/t pigs weren't seeming to show their best as it was dinner time. Many felt it was better for pigs. Must do market before showmanship. Kids were able to feed before showmanship. Kristen liked how carcass judging was done. Rocky suggests need to make sure shavings are done before move-in r/t it was very slippery prior to shavings. Jasper states heard people were frustrated about the judge being a jackpot show judge as well. Felt like it may have been a conflict. Bella states not a conflict r/t jack pot show is open to anyone. Chuck Dilts states many young showmen don't know about jack pot shows and feels like it is not fair to those kids who don't do those shows, as they don't know what judge likes/dislikes. Stacy felt she was a fair judge. Jo Weller states liked the judge but heard her make comments in the ring about connections she had to those kids from jack pot shows. Kristy Parker states felt she was an amazing judge but feels it may not look great optics wise. Jeff states will take the input and can discuss it further. Lori Scott states when she had to get judges, she had them sign a contract that they couldn't judge any shows in a 250-mile radius for 6 months prior to show.

**Thursday-Beef show:** Travis states saw a lot of adults handling beef and non-exhibitors helping with grooming. Wants to make sure people are aware of rules. Cindi states she learned she's not supposed to be handling animals as a leader. Kristy Conway agrees grooming needs to be enforced. Rocky states need to have common sense about things. Kristy Parker states it would be nice if the beef barn was close to non-exhibitors/families during the day of the beef show, as too many people that don't understand beef and it is too chaotic and potentially dangerous. Christine states when it comes to horses, there are strict rules that parents are not allowed to handle the horses unless the kid has 2 horses and needs help holding them. Suggests another exhibitor to help if they need help. *\*Grand Champion Drive:* Scott states re: carcass contest announcement, need to do it in-house first so when readings come back, the board can look at the list and regenerate it prior to announcement. Also states leaders to know if the animals are in county vs out of county. Don't want to have issues during announcement of winners. Jo states appreciates that the person who was announcing it took ownership of the error.

**Friday-Large Animal Master Showmanship:** Some felt the judges didn't know what they were doing or asking. Asked how judges are picked. Diane states it is typically previous showman that excelled in showing that specific animal. Jennifer states she feels showmanship is very important because it is based on the work kids put into their animal vs the quality of the animal. Feels it should be judges who know what they are doing, and showmanship should be highlighted. It was suggested to possibly use a livestock judging team. Also suggested having the judge hold a Q&A after showing. Lori states it's important to get judges early. Rocky states need people that understand how to show. Stacey Nelson thinks taking advantage of the students on judging teams is important. Jasmin states needs to make sure kids get their tack/items back if the animal is used for showmanship. Scott states per the premium book, the fair needs to be supplying the tack/buckets for showmanship. Travis states should get certain color of supplies and use them. *\*Small Animal Showmanship:* Mrs Deponte states there were issues getting animals to the fairgrounds for the show. Also need to be aware of the breeds that are sensitive, like rabbits/cavies.

**Saturday-Auction:** Lunch went well. Victoria states had some buyers wonder where dessert was. Rocky suggests showcasing those who buy the champion animals as well as showcase highest donors. Want to create competition. Suggestion about putting it back in Ramona Sentinel. Carolyn says there wasn't enough waters be passed out and the auction line was very long to get through. Victoria suggests labeling lines at the office. Lori states there were no scanners, so had to input all info real time, which was holding up the line. States need more scanners, which fair board is supposed to have 3. Lori states used to have a page in the auction book of top donors and a page of

previous champion winners and buyers. Lori also states we need to figure out a better way to do paperwork for the buyers. Kristy Parker felt it was a great idea giving gift cards to top buyers. Many said it was hard/confusing to figure out how to do add-ons. Lori suggests putting the add-on link up when premium book goes up. Showworks kept having some people reset the password or sending emails that it was updated. Guy states when setting up auction, make sure to leave a wide space for the industrial arts items. States he has proposed changes for next year. Diane states will discuss it next year for premium book changes. Mrs. Deponte says poultry champions in auction book were not correct for 2022. Jasper states it was hard to hear auction numbers while in the pig barn. Suggesting a score board in the barn so exhibitors can see what number is going through. Travis states wanting to get a score board for auction block, so can possibly get two. Chuck suggests allowing grand and reserve champion carcass animals go through the auction after the grand and reserve champion market animals, including in and out of county winners. Many people liked that idea and suggested to discuss idea for next year.

**Sunday-Take-Down:** People felt it was easy and fast. Kristy Conway felt the goat area clean-up was confusing, as didn't know where shavings were supposed to go. Suggests making it take down process clearer. Travis states next year will do better scheduling wise but wanted to make it easier on people to allow self-hauls to move out earlier. Mentioned we need more people to help and volunteer, including getting kids to help with take-down, as it was observed many kids were sitting around not helping. Jeanine Hawkins was disappointed people were getting up as Jeff was speaking during closing ceremonies. Katie states would be nice having times to move-out trailers as well. Scott feels kids need to have more generous attitudes when it comes to award ceremonies. Guy states it would be nice to have worklists with tasks that need done so volunteers know what to do. Jo states it was one of her favorite fairs. Felt everyone did an amazing job. Jasper suggests doing the carcass scanning different for pigs, as it was hard to scan them in the area it was done. Jeff said there was a lot of improvising for that, so will discuss how to do it differently next year.

- 11) Jeff states the next RJF board meeting will be October 6th @ 6:30p. States next month is election month and we will have 3 positions opening (Scott, Michelle, and Mandy). Travis gives a big thank you to Victoria for awards.
- 12) Meeting adjourned by Jeff @ 9:11p. Motion/Second: Scott/Travis. Discussion: none. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Garner  
RJF Secretary

\*Minutes approved at the RJF Board Meeting October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025\*