

**ELKO COUNTY FAIR BOARD  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, February 3, 2010  
STOCKMEN'S CASINO  
ELKO, NEVADA**



**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

*Dawn Leyva, Steve McDermott, Jim Elliott, Tony Buzzetti  
Walter Winchell, Dick Harris, Nancy Porter*

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

J.J. Roemmich, Secretary/Treasurer,  
Mary Journigan, Stallion Stakes Secretary  
Travis Rutherford, Grounds Caretaker

**GUESTS:**

Brian McIntosh Nevada Gaming Control  
Bob Baffert Ely Horse Racing  
Demar Dahl County Liasion

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*Elko County Fair Board Chairman Walter Winchell called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.*

**Meeting Minutes-**

Meeting minutes from Jan. 13,10 meeting Jim Elliott asked for corrections on the meeting minutes correct the names under staff & committee appointments. Jim Elliott moved to accept the minutes with corrections Tony Buzzetti seconded, all approved.

**Public Comment:**

Dick Harris talked to Mr. Bartlett on the phone asked them to come from White Pine Horse Racing commission. Mr. Bartlett further explained the situation they had last year being overwhelmed with horses. Some of those people came here and brought extra horses for the Elko meet not running there but here for sure taking up stalls they could use for horses that were running. Some hauled from Elko to Ely to run each day. They are putting in more stalls right now but will need further stalling for some horses. This year they will advertise that the only horses that can stall are horses that are running there. What they would like is that people that have horse entered in Elko could bring those horses here ahead of time to accommodate them in Elko. Jim Elliott stated we should not have a problem with having enough stalls that early. Dick Harris stated the only problem would be with security not being there. They will have 168 stalls available this year in Ely with additional permanent panels for pony horses. Brian explained the Nevada Gaming control boards situation on this with people needing to be aware there will not be security on the grounds here until closer to the Elko race meet. Our stall reservations are due by July 15<sup>th</sup> and this might create more problems on stalls available. Walter asked why the deadline was set so early or why we could not move it to Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. JJ explained the situation with the deadline and people not getting the information in still by July 15<sup>th</sup> and this allows us more time to get the information in. Dick explained the stalls and having a reservation and how it has worked here for Elko. Dick stated this is under public comment section and we can't vote on this tonight, we have heard your concerns and put it under this next month's agenda. Dick thanked them for their input and coming here tonight.

Sabrina Reed stated this year she is either announcing the branding contest or the hosting the rancher's ball but not both. They made approximately \$1,600.00 this last year on the Ranchers Ball, this year she would like to move it to the fairgrounds and put it on the other side of the cowboy bar. She wanted to make some suggestions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday night have saddle bronc riding with Wally blossom. At 4pm have mutton busting at 5pm steer decorating and the bronc riding would follow with dinner following the bronc riding. Tony Buzzetti stated there would be no room on the second weekend for additional livestock with also having to have them there early before racing starts. Another idea she had was to have a live musical band for people to come watch. She also had an idea that we construct handicap seating on the sides of the box seats on the ends, this has been brought forth before and is not possible with the angle of the ramp that would have to be installed for them to get up there. Also have a trailer at the grounds in the vendor area for the basque dancers, Indian dancers, or community clubs to demonstrate during the day for entertainment. No Further public comment.

### **Racing & Sponsorship:**

Dick Harris reported he had received an email from JJ Roemmich on the Challenge races. Don Newman had received an email from Laurel Wachtel stating we did not want or have any interest of running any of the Challenge races. He received several email on his return from Sharon Brandsness providing information that no one else could. She gave Dick some history behind the challenge races. If we were to accept the challenge races we would have to make room for up to 16 extra races for trials and finals Fred didn't see any problem with that. We would need approximately 50 to 70 stalls additionally for horses in the challenge races. She also stated we probably ought to set aside a \$10,000 contribution from the fairboard. He explained our financial problems and she was aware of the problems we are having. He would not guarantee the money but she stated we would probably not have a problem getting additional money for this. Dick stated he felt he could possibly make some contacts in the mining community to get the additional money. The AQHA does not have a set rule but sort of has a rule that they need two weeks between trials and finals. We can not accommodate that for the dates as we have already turned in the race dates in Nevada. The final thing we are option b behind Boise. If Boise was going to run they would have these races in Boise. She is 75% sure Boise is going to run but Fred Davis stated he would not say that. Jim asked on the decision regarding Boise what is going to happen? Trey Buck is in charge of scheduling challenge races and he told Dick this morning that they want to get all this wrapped up in the next two weeks. Brian McIntosh went over some of the options we had with additional dates of running and if they aren't pari-mutuel wagering and there are things that can be done if we need additional time. Nancy asked about the up side for us, Dick stated a better quality of horses and Brian explained that yes that would be true as Doug ray commented on that too. There will be a lot of additional advertising on the race meet and this would be plastered all over the United States through the AQHA. Dick's next conversation today took places with a couple of people in Texas at the AQHA with the number 1 person and his 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge. They assured the AQHA would give us all the help we would need. They both are fearful that there will be problem finding a home for these races. They will do just about anything to get us to handle these races. They would like us to take 3 of the major races the juvenile, derby and the championship. They will give us all the help we would need. They have already found a spot for three of the challenge races but will need to race the other three here. Our reputation is right up there with several of the larger tracks in the US as far as running a good race meet. They can make the 10 days work. We could run the 10-11 trials running them on Thursday prior to the first weekend or during the days on the first weekend letting the AQHA pay for them we would not have to. We could make room to run the races on the first weekend for trials along with our stakes race trials. Steve stated this could help us with the horse situation as with Boise and Wyoming not running this could either help us or really hurt us with race horses coming to Elko. You may have an influx or half of what you were used to. Nancy made a motion that Dick pursue these 3 races coming to Elko through the AQHA. Tony seconded Jim stated we need a firm understanding of what our financial situation will be and that commitment for this years races. All approved. Discussion on the added money to the stakes races for advertising, Dick made the motion to make the added money on the futurities to \$15,000 and the derbies \$10,000 Tony seconded all approved. Table to next meeting race updates.

### **Audit & Financial Report from Kafoury Armstrong:**

Bob Heguy reported on the Audit from Kafoury Armstrong, he explained how he takes the records from JJ and the county and push them together to make them one to the government for the county audit. He does a yearly financial statement and this gives an opportunity to help the bookkeeper to make their jobs better. All the transactions are put into many divisions and separated out for the boards benefit. He felt the current secretary is doing a good job. The fair board receives apportioned taxes and he as well as Dick went to the county officials to get the funds straightened out. One of the apportionments goes to us and one goes to the improvement fund. Discussion on Governmental assets and they derived a depreciation schedule for the assets at the fairgrounds. He will give them a copy of the financial statements as it is rolled into the county. Dick Harris made the motion to accept the report Bob Heguy presented Jim Elliott seconded all approved.

### **Bull Riding Event:**

Jim talked to the gentlemen and he is sending another contract with his signature on it, and the pen problem bringing the bulls in between 10-12 on Sat and leaving 10-12 sun. Tabled to next meeting.

### **Grandstand Upgrade Project:**

Nancy stated we need to paint the grandstands before we get busy. The south end is so bad and needs to be done before the events get going. Travis stated we can get that done, he possibly could get a jail crew or juvenile crew. Nancy asked about it being done around May 1<sup>st</sup>, Travis stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May. Nancy made the motion to have the grandstands be painted by May 15<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. Dick seconded all approved.

### **Grounds Report:**

Travis reported the fair office is done mostly with a section of the floor still needing to be done. They waxed the floor in there and right now they are working in the exhibit hall waxing the floors in there. The bathroom door has been kicked in and needs repaired. He is currently seeking quotes for the lead up section for the arena. The gates on the roping chute we have would cost \$400.00 each. Wells will be running their senior pro rodeo so the dates Jim has will hold.

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**Treasurers Report:**

JJ Roemmich reported on the treasurer's report and the unpaid bills. Nancy moved to accept the report as presented and pay the bills. Jim seconded all approved.

**Committee Reports:**

\*\*\*Dawn Leyva reported the trade show went really well more vendors and more people came through. She opened a bar and paid for a special event liquor license. This next year we will apply for a yearly liquor license for \$100.00. Dawn will send us a check for \$410.00 The propane cost us \$600.00 for seven days (40% of the tank) She has applied for the Natural Gas to be run to the building and Walter stated we would need new and improved heating units. The street would also have to be cut to put a line in and that will have to be permitted by the city.

\*\*\*Nancy Porter reported on the trailer that sits on the corner of the fairgrounds property isn't owned by anyone and the state says it does not exist. She will look at our legal options for getting rid of this.

\*\*\*Tony Buzzetti stockhorse meeting next Monday 6:30pm for the stockhorse committee.

\*\*\*Promotions Jim getting ready for application for recreation board money.

*Next Meeting March 10, 2010 Stockmen's Casino 6:30 pm  
Meeting Adjourned.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer JJ Roemmich *Elko County Fairboard Secretary*