

**ELKO COUNTY FAIR BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, March 16, 2011
STOCKMEN'S CASINO
ELKO, NEVADA**



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve McDermott, Dawn Leyva, Tony Buzzetti
Steve Wines, Jim Elliott, Walter Winchell, Dick Harris

BOARD & STAFF MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Nancy Porter

STAFF PRESENT:

Travis Rutherford- Grounds Caretaker J.J. Roemmich, Secretary/Treasurer

GUESTS:

Aaron Means	Jim Elliott	Katherine & Jace Abatti
Cheryl Evans HMRA	Danna Roylance HMRA	
Bud Omohundro-	Wilma – Walmart for VFW	

* * * * *

Elko County Fair Board Chairman Tony Buzzetti called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Board Assignment:

Walter Winchell discussed the board member applicants that were turned into the County Managers office. This position will be to fill a member in the stockhorse division. Ballots were passed out and board members voted. Walter then counted the ballots and majority vote went to John Tueller. JJ Roemmich will contact the County Commissioners office and let them know the selection. Walter thanked all the applicants and hoped that down the line will be more openings and hope all reapply.

Meeting Minutes-

Dick Harris made the motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Tony Buzzetti seconded all approved.

Public Comment:

Steve McDermott introduced Katherine Abatti to everyone, she helped us in the race office last year and she is here to give us a little insight to raise some money and help us out with the races. She is not sure where everyone is at with collecting sponsor money for the races this year. She loves the fair and been involved in horse racing since 1990 and been involved in several associations as well. She would like to see the advertising for the horse races change as she has never seen anything besides the flyers and one ad in the Racing Journal and if she wasn't involved in the horse racing she would not know it even existed. She also felt we are really late in getting money this year as it is already the end of March and the races are coming up fast. She would like some place to start needs a little history and figures. Jim explained the history on the races before the state fund and the races after the state fund. This money is what is keeping us alive, the local businesses found out about this and the local support dried up. Dick responded we have a budget set for \$110,000.00 just purse money and \$40,000 of that is used up right off the bat as added money for the stakes races. The AQHA races we had last year won't be here this year. The thoroughbred purses have to be raised to get more people here. Katherine is stating her understanding is that we either need more money for purses or cut out the first Friday. She would figure that we would need \$150,000.00 to run full card for a full 7 days of racing. She would also state we need more of the people in the grandstands for betting. Discussion on the procedures for the state money and how it is paid based on last year. She wanted a deadline on when the money would need to be raised by. Dick explained the condition book and the procedure of the purses. She also explained that she felt we need to advertise more in California (central California) the fair circuit and smaller. These people want to go to the horse races they don't care if they are watching 2 horse fields. Steve asked about the best way to contact or get through to those people. Katherine stated that when you reach out to other horsemen. Jace stated if you have a bus that people can get on to come to the races and stay in the hotels goes back to home the next day. This could be done for only one day or the first weekend. She reported you have to reach out to diverse groups of people by going person to person and talking to them in person. Dick also reported that Boise may actually get something together for some racing this summer and that will help us this year. Katherine also stated we need the track open earlier in the month for training. You can get more California people as they are looking for places to go. Dick asked her if she would be willing to help the board with raising the money for racing. She responded that she would need figures and past information to see what she would have to do to make this work before she would commit. She has a lot of Reno contacts that could help us. Dick's second question

is she planning on stepping into the position that Carla was doing? Katherine stated she hasn't been approached on anything with that. Some discussion about the Reno Gazette writer that blew off horse racing in Elko. Jim stated that this next year will be 91st year, and Walter stated that in the history of the Elko County Fair there was only two years there wasn't racing. Cheryl Evans of HMRA also stated they put out flyers everywhere for an event and that worked the best over poster or any other advertising.

HMRA Mud Bogs:

Cheryl Evans is the co chair and public relations director for the HMRA. About 6 years ago they came here and loved it and she is here tonight to answer any questions the board would have. This is for the Hometown people and they have specific classes for the local people only, which include a class for the women. The Fairboard's responsibility would be to prepare the track, they operate the entire event but the Fairboard would do the concession and the gate. Walter asked what would need to be done to prepare the track for the event. Cheryl explained the track and also would need a fire truck and ambulance at the event. They are not capable to come in and just rent the fairgrounds. Dawn stated that this Fairboard can't do it but there are several clubs here that might do this and she will talk to them about it.

Carnival:

Dawn Leyva stated she only has the stuff from the carnival that was there last year. She stated the proposal for a flat fee of \$7500.00 on \$30,000 of gross revenue. Dawn made the motion to accept the proposal and sign for a three year contract. Dick Harris asked about changes in the following years she stated no, more discussion on what he is bringing and the procedures of him coming. Dick Harris seconded all approved.

Concessions Stand / Fire Suppression System:

Dick Harris reported, the suppression system and the hood system are underway. Plumblin finally got their plan accepted by the city and fire department people. They should start the installation of that next week. Once Plumblin is done State Fire would come in and finish up. The cost will be around \$1,500.00. We are probably looking at the fans and hood will cost approximately \$7,000.00. The hood will go all the way across to the fryers. It will be done possibly by the first of April. Wilma from Wal-Mart has talked to the VFW and they asked for money to do the project for the concessions stand. She asked if there is a volunteer project they could come down to paint. Travis stated that right now the painting would have to be an inside thing and they could paint the inside of the exhibit building. She could do something later in the summer. They have to put in 250 hours and 50 associates for \$5,000.00 worth of work. They have a job already lined up for this quarter and the Relay for Life. They could do something later in the summer or next quarter. Dawn would like to have the inside of the building in July or August. She will work directly with Dawn and Travis on getting this done

Bathrooms at the fairgrounds:

Travis Rutherford reported so far they have not been able to find the urinals to go in the men's room. He has checked the other items prices. Discussion on the procedure of repairing and installing the handicap stalls and fixing the urinals those currently are in each bathroom. Tony Buzzetti made the motion to proceed with all actions at the bathrooms, replacement parts on all urinals and install additional handicap stalls. Steve Wines seconded all approved

Grounds Report:

Travis Rutherford reported on the power meters and which one is running the bill up. He got a hold of Sabala today and he came over and the power company has been called and will come over and look into the high cost of the bill. Got a letter from the State of Nevada Environmental Protection Agency (reuse water) and apparently they haven't gotten any of the reports Travis has been mailed to them. He is trying to get a hold of the guy at the State office to find out what it needed. Walter said all he could tell him is work hard on getting a hold of the state and take care of getting this done. It might require a meeting in Carson City to get this done and taken care of. It might also help to contact John Ellison on this for some help. One water line is leaking by the manure bunk between the two barns (7 & 8) it needs to be repaired.

Treasurers Report:

JJ Roemmich reported on the treasurer's report presented. Tony Buzzetti made the motion to approve Dick Harris seconded all approved

Committee Reports:

- **Chairman Walter Winchell and JJ Roemmich will go to the commissioners budgeting committee to see if we can get our operating and improvement funds increased this year as we have no major projects to put in for.
- **Secretary JJ Roemmich reported on race nomination forms they have been mailed out.
- ** Home Arts- Dawn Leyva reported the Silver state trade show made \$942.00. She has sent out the vendor applications for the fair.
- ** Race- Dick Harris and Fred Davis are working on the condition book. We should have a special meeting to get this done in the last week of April or he would like to move to the first week in May on the 4th for a special Meeting to go over any racing items at 7:30. He reported that Boise has gotten some stuff straightened out and it currently appears they may start racing again which will help us out.

**Scheduling Jim Elliott- he got a call from a lady wanting some dates to put on a two day roping. He hasn't heard anything back yet.

** Steve Wines nothing.

** Steve McDermott wanted to thank Katherine and her husband for coming and helping out.

** Stockhorse Chairman Tony Buzzetti reported they had a stockhorse and stallion stakes meeting before the meeting and everything is coming together for this year. They are going to work on the cattle contracts for the cattle this year.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting April 13, 2011 Stockmen's Casino 7:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer JJ Roemmich *Elko County Fairboard Secretary*