

**Country Fair Committee Minutes**  
**March 19, 2008 meeting**

Present: Campbell Barrett, Colleen Terrazas, Larry Henderson, Joey Hennes, John Warehime, Scot Meader, Dale Clouse, Leroy Christofferson, Kris Handley, Lori Zeiser, Andrea Holland, Becky Blanchard, Jerry Marks

1. Campbell Barrett, 4-H Agent, called the meeting to order. Campbell said he reviewed the minutes from previous months to come up with today's agenda.
  
2. **Regarding educational displays . . .**
  - ▶ Kris Handley reported that she contacted NRCS regarding educational displays to use at the fair. Kris found three to be appropriate for our needs on the topic of conservation and landscaping. They are seven feet tall and can be placed on a table top or the ground.
  
  - ▶ Jerry Marks said he would like to see educational displays explaining what 4-H means to the community emphasized.
  
  - ▶ Andrea Holland stated that she was not in 4-H, but now works in an agriculture-related field and doesn't understand the whole 4-H program. How does raising animals benefit children? How does a family become involved in 4-H? How do "city kids" fit in to the 4-H program? What is a 4-H club?
  
  - ▶ Another idea is to have educational displays that explain what the parts of the animals raised by 4-H members are used for, and any other pertinent information to educate the public on 4-H projects.
  
  - ▶ Leroy Christofferson suggested that for one afternoon we have the display of a live grizzly bear and black bear that explains to people the difference between the two species. *Leroy will contact Doug Frazier of Fish, Wildlife & Parks regarding availability.* If they agree, FW&P will stay with the display to take care of the bears and answer questions from the public.

- ▶ Along this same train of thought regarding bear education . . .  
Andrea Holland said she recently saw a presentation by three agencies regarding protecting livestock, gardens, orchards, etc. from bears without harming the bears. *Andrea said she had the information at her office and would get it to Campbell.* Lori Zeiser added that she believes one of the agencies is Big Blackfoot Challenge.
- ▶ Campbell reported that he contacted MSU regarding tabletop displays and came up with displays that highlight the various colleges at MSU that promotes the college. Campbell added that perhaps if we identify a need, a MSU specialist could develop a display for us in time for the fair.
- ▶ Scot Meader reported that he did not think the pig racing would take place because of expense. He said he was working on "Farmer for the Day."
- ▶ Scot wondered about hatching chicks during the fair as part of an educational experience. Colleen stated that the last 4-H Agent to do this during the fair was Denise Arnold. Since that time the Extension Office gave all working incubators to the schools. Colleen added that if we need to purchase an incubator, they are not that expensive. *Lori Zeiser stated that Frenchtown Middle School has some brand new incubators and she'll check with them to see if we could use them during the fair. Campbell said he would contact Laura DeNitto, Poultry Barn Superintendent, to see if this is something she could offer in the poultry barn.*
- ▶ Joey Hennes added that educational displays are great, but we need all the "fun things" too that actually brought the people through the gates to come to the Country Fair.

### 3. Fair Update by Scot Meader

- The Rodeo contract will go to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) next week. There will be three days of rodeo this year and professional bull riding on Thursday night.
- The new roof on the culinary building is completed.

- Scot asked everyone to look at the aerial photo. He said the semi trucks in the photo, close to South Avenue and the Cenex tent will be gone this year. He suggested we add another Country Fair arch somewhere in that area for the public to move more freely into the Country Fair from that part of the fairgrounds. Larry Henderson stressed that if this arch is something we want, he needs plenty of time to build it — as in he needs to know now. *Scot stated that he would pay for the supplies if Larry would build the arch.*
- Ann Mary Dussault is retiring June 30. Dale Bickell, Chief Financial Officer, has been mentioned to take her place.

#### 4. Country Fair Coordinator Position

- Jerry Marks had initially hoped that the Fair Office would take this position over and coordinate the Country Fair theme throughout all the buildings on the fairgrounds. However, the Fair budget cannot handle this expense this year.
- Jerry stated that the accomplishments of the Country Fair Committee to develop a Country Fair has been successful, and we need to continue with these efforts to improve it every year. We are on our third year. The first year was our organizational year and we surpassed expectations. The second year we enhanced the Country Fair by adding a stage and incorporating more community groups, particularly for entertainment.
- Campbell Barrett initially thought the he and Country Fair Committee could handle the duties of the Country Fair Coordinator. After putting together the agenda for this meeting, he realized that really isn't realistic. He said Jerry found some money in his budget, so Campbell is taking Jerry up on his offer to hire a temporary Country Fair Coordinator to organize events for the 2008 Western Montana Fair. Campbell stated that he left a message for Lisa Mills, but has not heard back from her.

#### 5. Country Fair Mission Statement

It was decided that we should have a mission statement. Key words/ideas are: family & community, promote 4-H/FFA, rural/agriculture heritage.

*Kris Handley, Jerry Marks and Campbell Barrett will work on wordsmithing a mission statement for the April meeting.*

6. **Memorandum of Understanding**

An MOU was developed the first year of the Country Fair between this committee, the BCC, and the Fair Board. Scot stated that since there is no longer a Fair Board, it would be a good idea to have a small group of us meet with the BCC to explain our progress and ask what they would like to see. This two-way dialog is important. Scot stated that Kyle Stensrud, Chair of the Rodeo Committee, meets with BCC as does Laura Bakker about the rodeo queens. *Dale Clouse, Larry Henderson, Campbell Barrett volunteered to go with Jerry Marks to meet with the BCC.*

7. **Petting Zoo** . . . what are we going to do about having a petting zoo?

- ◆ The petting zoo was a hit with families, it's a draw to the fair.
- ◆ Scot said to have a traveling petting zoo show up at the fair is about \$800 per day. We already have petting zoo animals, all we need is someone to manage it as a Fair Superintendent.
- ◆ Last year Opportunity Resources had a young man that helped Tara. He could not manage the petting zoo, but perhaps he could provide help. *Campbell will check with Tim Furey of Opportunity Resources regarding their potential involvement with the petting zoo this year.*
- ◆ Colleen suggested we try to get a former 4-H'er as a Petting Zoo Fair Superintendent. However, we cannot expect anyone to give up a week of their time without being paid. Two names that came to mind were Jesse Anderson and Amy Smith. *Colleen and Campbell will work this angle.*
- ◆ *Scot said what we need is a Petting Zoo sponsor.*

8. **Budget**

Scot asked how much money was left in the Country Fair budget after the fair last year. Campbell said approximately \$5400. Campbell added that the salary for the Country Fair Coordinator in the amount of \$4500 should have come out of the Country Fair budget, which would leave us with \$900. However, Jerry Marks being the good guy that he is, will let that slide and allow us to start up with the full \$5400 this year.

Scot stated that he could start contacting last year's sponsors for sponsorship this year. Colleen suggested that be left for the Country Fair Coordinator, particularly if it is Lisa Mills as she has developed a relationship with those sponsors.

9. **More Ideas . . . and a little information**

- ▣ Using a reader board for communications.
- ▣ Ask every club to create a wooden sign with information about their club that could hang on the Russell Street fence.
- ▣ Leroy Christofferson suggested we "jail" Heidi Meili from KECI TV and Jill Valley from KPAX TV and collect money from the public to bail them out of "jail."
- ▣ [After the meeting, Leroy suggested collecting money from people wanting to "get even" or find pleasure from throwing a pie in the face of our Sheriff, or some other public figure.]
- ▣ Organize a different contest every day. Have a sign up table for those interested to sign up, which includes the public as well. Contest ideas are pie throwing, apple bobbing, watermelon seed spitting.
- ▣ Old tractors are a draw. We talk about this every year. It's time to make contacts to get old tractors and 2-cycle engines on display.
- ▣ Shane Clouse of Pink Grizzly will provide pots and plants this year.
- ▣ Dance: Joey Hennes spoke to Shane Clouse about having him and Stomping Ground perform for the 4-H dance this year. She said she did not get a commitment and will see him again on March 29, so she'll ask again.
- ▣ Hay bales: Where are we going to get hay bales this year for decorations? Last year they came from the Ag Center and someone took them at the end of the fair. Scot said he would like to decorate the entire fairgrounds with hay bales. If you have ideas . . . please come forward with information.
- ▣ John Warehime said something has to be placed below ground to stake the tents this year. **Dale, Scot and John will pursue this idea.**

The meeting needed more time than we had time for so not all items on the agenda were discussed.

**Jerry Marks reminded the group that we need to organize the fair for the long-term which will be discussed at a meeting next Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 pm.**

**The next Country Fair Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, April 16, 5:30 pm.**