

MINUTES

35-A DAA – Mariposa County Fairgrounds

Board of Directors

September 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Tom Williams at 5:00 PM in the Director's Room of the 35-A District Agricultural Association.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Williams.

DIRECTORS & STAFF PRESENT: Directors- Williams, Richards, Wass, Vaughan, Phillips and Staff- Foley & Davies. Director Johnson arrived at 5:13 PM.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Shelton

GUESTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Foley delivered good news from CDFA, the fairgrounds will be getting a portion of the 2025-2026 Grant Agreement. She is unsure of the amount, but thrilled to be included in the grant funds.

Foley shared four emails received from community members that were disappointed about the rodeo clown and pre-rodeo prayer.

She also introduced a Notice of Violation for our water testing during April & May of 2025, our contracted source did not have updated licensing for that time period. The fairgrounds must now publicly post the non-compliance on the grounds between now and October 15 for seven consecutive days.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A.) Approve Agenda as emailed: Motion by Richards, Second by Phillips and carried unanimously via roll call by Directors Vaughan, Wass, Phillips, Richards and Williams to approve Agenda as is. Director Johnson was not present for this vote.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.) Approve Minutes: Motion by Wass, Second by Phillips and carried unanimously via roll call by Directors Vaughan, Wass, Phillips, Richards and Williams, all present at the July 20, 2025 meeting, to approve the July 20, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. Director Johnson was not present for this vote.
- B.) APPROVE DISBURSEMENTS & NET PAYROLL: Motion by Richards, Second by Vaughan and unanimously via roll call by Directors Vaughan, Wass, Phillips, Richards and Williams to approve disbursements in the amount of \$39,011.93 and payroll in the amount of \$30,960.30 for the month ending June 30, 2025 along with disbursements in the amount of \$76,222.71 and payroll in the amount of \$21,523.68 for the month ending July 31, 2025. Director Johnson was not present for this vote.

- C.) REFUND REQUESTS: Motion by Phillips, Second by Vaughan and carried unanimously by Directors Vaughan, Wass, Phillips, Richards and Williams to refund vendor Pam Toney of Inspired Gems \$400.00. Director Johnson was not present for this vote.
- D.) INTERIM CONTRACTS: Director Richards shared his research findings. He reviewed policies from the Orange County Fair along with their deposit deadlines and percentages. He described a well-oiled system that works for not only the fairgrounds, but also the renter. He stated that our current practices have staled and need revamping. He referenced the current economy and feels that now is the perfect time to implement new procedures with the transition in management. Williams spoke of a 47% for whole grounds deposit requirement and 25% for building rental upfront deposit requirement. Williams also suggested a 33% fee for any invoice past 30 days. President Williams decided to table the topic for a future meeting. Director Johnson arrived during discussion at 5:13 PM. No voting took place.

REPORTS & INFORMATION:

A.) General Fair Discussion:

- a. Director Richards thoroughly enjoyed the exhibits. He especially enjoyed the exhibits by our youth. The Director complimented how the building was put together and noted the high volume of youth exhibitors. He enjoyed all of it.
- b. Director Phillips shared that he had been approached by several different individuals regarding the grounds being too hard during rodeo. He also heard comments about lack of seating and problems with carnival wristbands.

No other Directors discussed general fair concerns.

- B.) 2026 Fair Theme Contest: Foley credited social media for last year's large turnout in theme contestants and said we will turn to social media again this year.
- C.) Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will meet January 26, 2025 at 4:00 PM in the Board of Directors Room of the 35-A District Agricultural Association.

D.) Directors Comments:

- Director Vaughan described a fun filled weekend of fair, derby and rodeo. She said it was a good time all around.
- Director Johnson said he had a good time, lots of fun.
- Wass had nothing to share.
- Phillips had nothing to share.
- Director Richards recognized President Williams for his fair time contributions. He thanked Williams for supporting Foley along with her staff and for all the time he devotes to ensure a successful fair weekend. Richards praised Tina Wiemer for her knowledge and devotion. He voiced the importance of her work and expressed that she doesn't get enough credit for the tremendous job she does each season. Director Richards acknowledged Davies for her likeability. Richards said Foley put a new twist on

Labor Day. He noted that she really labored all weekend. He was impressed with her self-awareness, her goals, her mission and her values. He said her confidence and poise were tremendous.

- President Williams expressed his confidence in hiring the right person for the role of Mariposa County Fairgrounds CEO. He said that Foley was met with chaos the Thursday before fair and she handled it with ease. She maintained calmness and worked through the problems in an amazing way. He said he enjoyed the cheerful atmosphere in the front office. Wiemer and Davies greeted him with countdowns and it was always cheery.

- Davies had nothing to share.

E.) Manager's Report: Please see attached for CEO Foley's full report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Foley, CEO

Tom Williams, Board President

Managers' Report – September

First – Leslie Did an amazing job over Fair, she makes my life much easier! I appreciate her very much

Brian's presentation of the Blue Ribbon Award was a great time, he loved it!

Fire Marshal – Thursday of Fair. Lots of items had to be addressed, Ben had all items cleared by Friday afternoon. He also makes my life much easier! Just got the bill from them today, \$3,300 for the Fair inspection.

CDFA Fair Inspection –Jerome - Went well with no issues.

Training – Leslie & I will attend on October 14-15 at Dixon May Fair – Lots of HR information, General Liability Insurance, CFSA Accounting, Compliance Guidance, Etc.

Derby & Rodeo – Needed bodies to help get people into the grandstand. Need to have a few bodies/security to keep people from taking seats that are not theirs, also to ensure people are not standing in front of box seats or on stairways in box seating.

Purchased a used Kawasaki Mule for Ben – get deal \$7,000, big enough for him to fit into.

Security Cameras will be completed, job start date is 10/1/25 and will be complete and operating within 45 days.

Scope during Fair – Had a hard time having enough people to man all gates.

Maintenance has been working hard, the week after Fair, they had the barns all cleaned out, we usually have the Camp to help out but with the fires all going we didn't have that additional help. The grounds are looking good again, they have been working on leaves, etc. The football field is looking much better, along with the front lawn.

October is full with events, it will be a busy month!

Annual BBQ

~~Street~~
Sewer Alarm.