

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION**

**Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 5:00 pm
THE BOARD ROOM OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
100 PLACERVILLE DRIVE, PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA.**

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Arnold, Avery, Davis, Denton, Forni, Knight, Kobervig, McGuire, O'Halloran, Owen, Stek, Larry Goyette, Jody Gray, John Marino, Karen Owen, Ann McMillan, Marta Viola.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Owen called the meeting to order.

QUORUM REQUIREMENTS MET:

Owen determined that the requirements for a quorum were met.

II. APPROVE AGENDA:

Owen moved that the agenda be approved. Davis seconded, motion carried to approve.

III. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Owen moved that the minutes be approved. Davis seconded, motion carried to approve with corrections.

IV. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

2010 was another busy year for the Fairgrounds and staff:

- Remodeled the aging Marshall Building. It is a beautiful building now planned for weddings and receptions in addition to historical uses. It has new interior walls, larger windows, larger glass doors, new interior doors, a built in bar, a brides room, new restrooms, new lighting, Air Conditioning & new fans. The outside has been painted to match the new color scheme that the Fair has begun on some of the buildings, such as this Board Room.
- A new Pavilion was built on the fairgrounds and named The Milton Pavilion, after Doug Milton. It will be used during Fair for the Beef Barn and used throughout the year as an arena for other livestock shows.
- The mats that we received with a Grant were laid in Barns A & B to accommodate the footing for the Hogs at Fair and has served other events as well. There have been dog shows that have enjoyed the new footing, Farriers competitions and classes.
- The bark made of recycled rubber has been used in many garden plots and we will continue to add more.
- We started a new event this year, Gateway to the Sierra Sportsman & Outdoor Expo. This was held Oct 1 – 3. It was a great success and promises to grow in to a very exciting event here in El Dorado County.
- I have some bad news for California Fairs, I will read a press release that was released yesterday from the Department of Food & Agriculture and the Division of Fairs & Expositions:

Dear Fair CEOs,

As most of you already know, the Governor's proposed 2011/2012 Budget released yesterday calls for eliminating the \$32 million general fund support of the Network of California Fairs. In response, the Department of Food & Agriculture has released the following statement:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture will continue with its essential mission of protecting California's agriculture, environment and natural resources.

While the \$32 million reduction to California's fairs will be a setback to those operations, this is a necessary step in a difficult budget-balancing process.

It is hoped that an additional \$15 million reduction to CDFA can be covered from other sources. Discussions will occur with industry groups to evaluate options.

This is a tough budget for tough times that will close the state's structural deficit and provide a strong foundation to meet future needs.

This budget is essential in order to put California on the road to economic recovery and job growth.

The Division of Fairs & Expositions is asking all fairs to be very prudent with all upcoming expenses. Without general fund support next year, it is uncertain at this time what if any funds will be available for allocation to fairs in the next fiscal year. F&E is currently reviewing the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan to determine if there are any current funds that we can redirect from programs to base allocations. F&E is also looking at all planned and ongoing F&E funded construction projects on fairgrounds to determine if any can be postponed. Each fair with a proposed or ongoing project will be notified by separate communication regarding your specific project.

If any fairs are in need of assistance in reviewing their budgets and planning for the future, please feel free to contact F&E.

Thank you.

Rebecca Desmond

Acting Director

What this means is that about \$200,000 of our 1 million dollar budget will be gone as of July 1, 2011. The staff has spent the last two days crunching numbers and going over every item in the budget, both on revenue & expense sides to see where our current practices can be changed or altered somehow.

V. MANAGERS REPORT:

2011 Fair Dates, June 16 – 19. “Rockin and Wranglin” at the El Dorado County Fair is the theme.

We are attending the WFA conference next week to look at entertainment for fair. We have planned a “Day on the El Dorado Green” for Saturday with Tribute Bands playing late afternoon through the evening.

We are trying to get Train & Ricky & The Red Streaks to play Friday Night.

We will have a Battle of the Bands for the Teens on Friday afternoon with finals that evening on the Wells Fargo Stage.

We are planning the Bull Riding & Mutton Bustin on Friday night. Wheelbarrow Races Sunday night.

We are still looking for something motorized or a cage fight for Saturday night in the Grandstand.

We will have A Ranch Horse Versatility Show on Saturday in the Henningsen Pavilion and a Team Sorting & One on One Team Penning (cattle events) on Sunday.

The Mother Lode Circuit, Western & English Divisions will move back to the July dates.

The Capital Bar is in its 3rd year of existence. It has been a great success with volunteers staffing the booths, we have raised \$28,000 this year alone to go towards capital improvements. We will continue to add events to sell throughout the year.

In 2010 we bartended for:

- The Farriers Convention
- El Dorado High School 1965 – 1975 Class Reunion
- Handy Racing Banquet
- 4th of July Blast
- County Fair
- Annual Crab Feed sponsored by the Fair Association.

The 4th of July Blast will be held this year on Saturday, July 2 which is a Saturday since the 4th falls on a Monday this year. We hope that people will attend Saturday over Monday, since most people will have to work Tuesday morning and the Blast is a late night event.

We had to cancel Friday Night Bingo after 10 years. The Fair Association took over the program from the Big Bros & Big Sisters Organization. The Fair was losing money each week. It was a hard decision, however, we could not lose money each week and be fiscally responsible. The Bingo players used to attend more regularly, with about 85 – 90 per week. The last year it has been more like 50 per week. We do not know for sure why the drop, the economy & Red Hawk were most likely key contributors.

We have a new full time renter at the Fairgrounds; Weight Watchers has rented one of the old classrooms at Fair Side. We are excited to have another partner.

VI. ASSOCIATION MEMBERS REPORTS:

None

III. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS.

Since there were no other nominations, a vote of affirmation for Avery, O'Halloran and Arnold was made.

V. Adjourn to Refreshments

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY.

Mike Owen, President

Date

Jody W. Gray, CEO

Date