

THURSTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD

July 2, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Meeting was called to order by Paul Longwell at 7:00 pm.

Fair Board members present: Mikhail Cherniske, Baylee Ahrens, Paul Longwell, Linsey Lyons, Kathie McWaid, John Murphy, Mike Rendon, Heidi Thomsen, Don Wadsen, and Justin Wikoff.

Excused: Kya Ramirez, Oscar Hernandez, Kari Ahrens, Lance McElroy

Unexcused: Kolton Nash, Trinity Short, and Meren Gadman.

Guests: Cass McElroy (Board Member Lance McElroy's wife) and Nicole Martin – 4-H superintendent

Nicole Martin requested that we move the Lads and Lassies class to Friday night at 7pm. This is an open class exhibit.

APPROVE MINUTES OF: June 4, 2025

Motion by Kathie McWaid and seconded by Linsey Lyons to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Theresa Reid has submitted her resignation from the Fair Board.

FAIR FOUNDATION REPORT: The food court stage project has been completed. We are planning on having a ribbon cutting ceremony at the fair.

FAIR MANAGER REPORT: Thomasina and staff are working fast and furious on the fairgrounds. She is hiring extra help for the fair. Isabelle works in the office and is the primary fair entry contact. Danny also works in the office. Thomasina reported that she is also bringing in a couple of revenue staff to assist with revenue from ticket sales.

Lucky Eagle – Thomasina has spoken with them about a sponsorship.

Exhibits - 308 exhibitors are registered and 2,808 exhibits registered as of yesterday (July 1st).

Registration is still open.

Fair Evaluation – Fair Commissioners will evaluate the fair this year. We do not have an Ag exhibit. Paul will contact the bee association for an exhibit.

1) Fair Events Calendar – copies distributed at the fair board meeting.

- Fair Board members – there will be noon meetings during the fair.
- Superintendent meeting is July 14th @ 7:00 pm – ice cream social.
- Haul out meeting – Meeting was moved to earlier in the day on Sunday. We will meet at 8am on Sunday the 3rd.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1) Agriculture – The Committee met this last Thursday. The Committee discussed the haul out process and setting up the vet area. The Committee also talked about the parking passes having a number associated with the vehicle so that if there's an issue, we know who the vehicle belongs to.

2) Promotions – The Committee met tonight before the Board meeting. There will be a daily cow pie toss and hay scramble.

- Lifetime Achievement Award-voting – 3 applicants – Celeste Winther, Miriam Edwards, and Matt Mounts. The fair board voted on these 3. Celeste Winther was chosen.

- Rising Star Award- voting – Nominees were requested. Thomasina recommended Colton Nash. Recommendations received and approved were Kyla Poland, Kara Whitsell, and Colton Nash.
- 2026 Theme and Mascot
 - 250th America's Birthday – theme. This year kids will vote on the name of the eagle. Names to choose from are Colonel Beaks, Libby, Frankie, and Captain Soar. The mascot will be an eagle.
- 3) Facilities/Safety – Committee members have been painting buildings. Painted the handicapped spots. Committee is working on irrigation and working on re-establishing the adopt a garden program to beautify the grounds. Plants have been donated by a nursery in Rochester.
- 4) Scrapbook/History – Committee members are discussing having a digital scrapbook that could be printed out for convention.
- 5) Commercial –
 - Food vendors – The fair will have two coffee vendors and various kinds of food.
 - Commercial vendors – 42 vendors. A lot more trailers this year for vendors.
- 6) Still Life – The Committee is working to have exhibitors embrace the new technology for entering exhibits. The fair is offering hybrid options for entering exhibits this year for still life.
- 7) Entertainment – Entertainment is pretty locked in for what we are offering. Award ceremonies for exhibitors will be on the stage to highlight them. We will have the ability for people to take selfies with the peacock.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Schoolhouse – It needs to be manned by the fair board or kept locked. The Board decided to keep it locked as kids are vandalizing it during the fair. Next year we plan on reaching out to groups to oversee the schoolhouse during the fair.
- 2) Zeiglers is willing to do work for us in exchange for putting up their sign at the fair. Mike Rendon is working on getting Kiperts Korner Feed to come back with their tractors.

4th of July parade – To participate in the parade, please show up by 10:30am.

It was suggested for next fair that we recognize the highest sponsor of the previous fair – similar to what the Market Sale Committee does with the previous year's highest bidder.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Elections – President and Sergeant at Arms – Paul Longwell was nominated for president. Kathie McWaid was nominated for Sergeant at arms. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:11pm

Meeting minutes submitted by: Heidi Thomsen, Fair Board Director/Secretary.

There will be Board meetings during the Fair at noon each day in the Fair Board Office to go over the Good, Bad, and Ugly.

Next Official Fair Board Meeting: September 3, 2025.