

**THURSTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD**  
**November 5, 2025 @ 7:00 pm**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Meeting was called to order by Kathie McWaid at 7:00pm.

Fair Board members present: Kathie McWaid, Heidi Thomsen, Baylee Ahrens, Kari Ahrens, Meren Gadman, Oscar Hernandez, Linsey Lyons, Lance McElroy, John Murphy, Kolton Nash, Don Wadsen, and Justin Wikoff.

Excused: Mike Rendon, Kya Ramirez, Paul Longwell

Unexcused: Mikhail Cherniske

Guests: Thomasina Cooper, Fair Manager, Commissioner Rachel Grant, Rayanna Wisner, Sawyer Brown, Diana Torres, and Chris Pettit

**APPROVE MINUTES OF: October 1, 2025**

Motion by Lance McElroy and seconded by Don Wadsen to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None**

**FAIR FOUNDATION REPORT:** The Foundation received a grant from the Department of Agriculture - \$145,000 for appliances, painting, etc. Project must be finished by 2027. Secondhand Safari went well.

**FAIR BOARD APPLICANTS INTERVIEW:** 2 adults and 3 youth applicants. Applicants were asked to answer the following: 1) Tell us about yourself and why you want to join the Fair Board. 2) How do you think your skills are best put to work?

- Sawyer Brown (youth) – He wants to gain community experience in a professional environment. He has not been involved in the fair but has attended the fair. He lives in the Tumwater area and is interested in getting people in that area involved in the fair. He is willing to help with whatever we need. He can help advertise and survey fairgoers.

- Teagan Maffeo (youth) – Teagan did not attend the Board meeting.

- Rayanna Wisner (youth) – She has good communication skills and shows 4-H steers. She is very cooperative and helpful. She is also a good leader.

- Alyssa Callahan (adult) – Alyssa did not attend the Board meeting.

- Diana Torres (adult) – Diana was born and raised in Idaho. She has been a part of boards and advisory committees. She is interested in building community. As for her skills sets, she wears many hats. She does a lot of community engagement, connects people to places, and has done community events. She will get out and door knock, and foster relationships. She is a recent graduate of WSU – anthropology. Diana is focused on humans and human interaction. She can be a conduit of how to get people to work together. Diana has not been to the fair but she would like to be on the history committee.

- Chris Pettit (adult) – He runs a section at the Department of Health. Chris was on the fair board in Palm Beach County, Florida. He has been to the fair here. Chris is very active with the Chamber of Commerce.

#### FAIR MANAGER REPORT:

- Fair Dates Confirmed: Thurs July 30 – Sun Aug 2. E-newsletter will be coming out monthly.
- Fair Convention report – Wenatchee. There were about 200 people at the convention. There is a generational shift happening with fairs. Thomasina spoke about the sessions she attended. Next year's convention will be in Wenatchee as well as the year after.
- Youth Expo April 25-26 – We have sponsors and have a few judge prospects lined up. Saturday will be seminar day. Sunday will be jackpot day. Kids will learn what they need to do to improve their animal's weight and muscling.
- County fair received a grant for a pole barn kit (180' X 200'), permitting requirements and stormwater facilities. The grant amount is \$250,000 and is from the Department of Agriculture.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Agriculture Committee (Kari, Don, Kathi, Heidi, Kya, Baylee, Oscar, Lance, Linsey) – The committee met. Members discussed haul in and haul out, the vet situation, and ag display for this year (Colvins will be contacted and work with them). The plan is to rotate ag businesses each year. Haul in procedures will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Commercial Committee (Misha, Justin, Theresa) – The committee met and discussed food on haul in day, lower costs for families, cheaper food on dollar day (vendor participation will be voluntary), and streamlining the system for vendor application processes. There will be a push to get more local vendors.
- Facilities/Safety Committee (Paul, Don, Kathi, Heidi, Oscar, Mike, Lance) – The committee has not met yet.
- Promotions Committee (Kya, Meren, Paul) – The committee has not met yet. The committee will be getting together in the next few weeks.
- Sponsorship Committee (Justin, Kya, Meren, Paul, Misha) – The committee met and they are getting a menu of sponsorship items. There will be something for every sponsorship budget.
- Entertainment Committee (Justin, Kari, John) – The committee has met. Signing up no cost entertainment will be an electronic process. Lee will take over the main stage and will use his outlets to get the stage filled. We will use Signup Genius to schedule free entertainment. Paid entertainment will still go through Thomasina. KGY will host a diaper dash.
- History Committee (Linsey; SEEKING MEMBERS) – The committee has not met yet.

NEW BUSINESS – none.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- 1) December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting – The meeting will be replaced by our holiday party at 6pm. Bring a treat to share!

Adjourned at 7:54pm

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

**Next Fair Board Meeting: January 7, 2026**