

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Meeting Minutes Friday, August 26, 2025

The Regular meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 11:00 am at Nebraska State Fair Administrative Offices in Grand Island, NE. Public notice of this meeting was published in the Grand Island Independent newspaper on August 15 & 16, 2025; posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website; and on the Nebraska State Fair website. The public was invited to attend in person.

Roll call was read with the following Board members present: Boyd Strope, Chair; Tom Shellpeper, Vice Chair; John McKeever, Secretary; Lanna Hubbard, Treasurer; Dawn Caldwell; Anna Castner-Whiteman; Tom Dinsdale; Ryan Hassebrook; Kevin Havlovic; Alan Kale; Kathleen Lodl; and Beth Smith. Absent: Kevin Jorgensen.

Others in attendance:

Jaime Parr, Executive Director; Breanna Kozisek, incoming Business Administrator; Tammy Baker, Business Administrator; Cindy Johnson, Consultant.

The August 26 meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was called to order by Chairman, Boyd Strope. Boyd announced the meeting had been properly advertised as an open meeting and informed those in attendance of the posting location of the Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion made by Tom Dinsdale for Approval of Consent Agenda, which included Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2025.

Second by Beth Smith.

Upon roll call vote, motion to approve consent agenda passed unanimously.

Board Committee Reports Events Report by John McKeever

No report

Facilities Report by Tom Schellpeper

No report

Agriculture Report by Dawn Caldwell

No report

Finance Report by Lanna Hubbard

No report

FFA Report by Ryan Hassebrook

- Livestock exhibits were up 185
- Static exhibits were up 200

4-H Report by Kathleen Lodl

- Thanks to Team for support.
- Acknowledged great first weekend of Fair.

Executive Report by Boyd Strope

No report.

1868 Foundation Report

No report. Not present.

Executive Director Report by Jaime Parr

- Reminded Board members to keep track of new ideas for 2026 State Fair and note feedback for improvements.
 - o Highlighted 1868 Foundation fundraising efforts.
- Rumors were addressed on social media about a potential ICE raid at Latino shows. Some Latino shows have had to cancel. Our security teams have heard nothing so far. It will remain a concern as we get closer to Sunday, Fiesta Latina Day.
 - o The Fair is hopeful that people will still feel they can come out.
 - It was also acknowledged that the Fair will not impede any kind of law enforcement activity.
- Reminded Board of Cart Etiquette.
- Discussed daily and cumulative numbers regarding 2025 Fair attendance, revenues and ticket sales.

Adjournment

Motion made by Kevin Havlovic to adjourn. Second by Tom Dinsdale. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of August 26, 2025 Nebraska State Fair Approved: Date: September 1, 2025

John McKeever, Board Secretary