



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 1, 2025

The Regular meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Monday, September 1, 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 Strobe, Chair; Tom Schellpeper, Vice Chair; John McKeever, Secretary; Lanna Hubbard, Treasurer; Dawn Caldwell; Anna Castner-Wightman; Tom Dinsdale; Kevin Havlovic; Alan Kale; Kathleen Lodl; and Beth Smith. Absent: Ryan Hassebrook.

Others in attendance: Jaime Parr, Executive Director; Breanna Kozisek, incoming Business Administrator; Tammy Baker, Business Administrator; Cindy Johnson, Consultant; Terry Galloway, 1868 Foundation.

The September 1 meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was called to order by Chairman, Boyd Strobe. 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 Kevin Havlovic for Approval of Consent Agenda, which included Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025.

Second by Tom Dinsdale.

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

- Reminder was given for all board members to attend the 3:30 pm FFA Supreme Champions Final Drive show at the Five Points Bank Arena.

Finance Report by Lanna Hubbard

- No report

FFA Report by Ryan Hassebrook

- No report. Ryan was absent.

4-H Report by Kathleen Lodi

- Praise was given to the State Fair team regarding Saturday's puzzle contest.
 - A group of 20 teams, 40 people total, competed in two rounds to complete 500-piece puzzles. The competition brought quality crowds to the Raising Nebraska building.
 - Consideration was requested to host more events of that nature in the Raising Nebraska area for the 2026 Nebraska State Fair.

Executive Report by Boyd Strobe

- No report.

1868 Foundation Report by Terry Galloway

- The Great Steak Debate event saw great success.
 - Certified Piedmontese, Cargill and Tyson provided steaks for the event.
 - A little over \$105,000 was raised.
- The VIP Donor Reception held during the State Fair was also well attended.
 - Many attendees had upgraded and joined the society.
 - There was \$80,000 raised in 1868 Foundation commitments.
- The 1868 Foundation gift shop also saw \$34,000 in sales so far at this State Fair.
- Request was made that Nebraska State Fair Board and the 1868 Foundation Board consider planning a joint board meeting to discuss multi-year fundraising plans.
 - Present State Fair Board members were in favor of this, but no official motion was made.
 - Discussion was had about potential meeting plans.

Executive Director Report by Jaime Parr

- Enjoyment was expressed about the 2025 State Fair in light of it being the last day of the Fair.
- Gratitude was extended to board members who attended the morning's Veterans Program and greeted guests.
- Recognition was also made for John Skold – a former, long-time Nebraska State Fair staff member – who passed away shortly before this year's Fair.
 - He dedicated 44 years to the Fair and appreciation was shown for those years of service.
- State Fair data and performance trends were discussed.
- Fair weather was also discussed as recent rain made campus improvements evident.
 - Some projects are still in the works.
 - Upcoming meetings are scheduled with ARPA to discuss what projects can be done with the \$1.5 million funds approved by the State Fair Board.
- Praise given to Jaime Parr by Dawn Caldwell for strong leadership and to State Fair staff for quality collaboration this Fair season.
- It was noted that the coming meetings in October, November and December will focus on reviewing this year's events and preparing for those to come in 2026.

Adjournment

Motion made by Kevin Havlovic to adjourn.

Second by Alan Kahle.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

By: John McKee
John McKeever, Board Secretary