

**MINUTES**  
**March 17, 2009**  
**17<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association**  
**Grass Valley, California**

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** of the 17<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association was held on March 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Office of the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

**President Lyss called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 6:00 p.m.** Directors present: Skip Lusk, Simi Lyss, Tom Browning, Arnie Romanello, Jeanette Royal, and Art Whitney.  
Absent and excused: Sandy Ballou, Bill Schultz and Ron Wolfson

**Introduction of Guests and Staff**  
CEO Sandy Woods was present.

**Motion 2009-18: February 17, 2009 Minutes:** Motion by Director Browning, seconded by Director Romanello to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

**Motion 2009-19: February 2009 Financial Reports:** Motion by Director Lusk, seconded by Director Whitney to approve the February 2009 financial reports. Motion carried.

**Motion 2009-20: Citizens Bank – Check Signing Authorization:** Motion by Director Romanello, seconded by Director Royal to authorize President Lyss, Vice President Whitney, CEO Sandra Woods and Deputy Manager Robin Hauck to sign on Association bank accounts with Citizens Bank of Northern California, provided that any checks drawn over \$10,000 will require two signatures. Motion carried.

**Motion 2009-21: February 2009 Hazard Contracts:** Motion by Director Lusk, seconded by Director Whitney to approve the contract SS0102009 with Four Star Rodeo and contract SS0142009 with WGAS Motorsports. Motion carried.

**Motion 2009-22: February 2009 Contracts:** Motion by Director Royal, seconded by Director Browning to approve the February Interim Contracts and February Standard Agreements. Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

- A letter from Western Fairs Association in appreciation of the Draft Horse Classic gift package donation to the Blue Ribbon Foundation.
- A letter from the Rotary Club of Grass Valley in appreciation of the Fair package and Draft Horse Classic package donations for their Casino Night,

## **Fair Considerations**

- **2009 Fair Admission Fees and Special Discounts:** after general discussion CEO Woods will analyze the 2009 pricing structure further and meet with Directors Royal and Whitney to review pricing.
- **Annual Awards**
  - **Motion 2009-23: Hall of Fame:** Motion by Director Browning, seconded by Director Romanello to induct Ed Scofield into the Hall of Fame and that he be the only 2009 inductee. Motion carried.
  - **Motion 2009-24: Family of the Year:** Motion by Director Whitney, seconded by Director Romanello to elect the Scofield Family as the Family of the Year. Motion carried.
  - **Motion 2009-25: Blue Ribbon Award:** Motion by Director Royal, seconded by Director Whitney to award Don and Joann Sweet the Blue Ribbon Award for their support of the Fair, particularly the Ag Mechanics auction. Motion carried.
  - **Motion 2009-26: Blue Ribbon Award:** Motion by Director Royal, seconded by Director Lusk to award Rob Davenport the Blue Ribbon Award for his dedication to the Nevada County Explorer Scouts, who assist the Fair with guest services and parking during the Fair's other events. Motion carried.
- **Dream Team:** There was a general report on the Fair's "Dream Team" and projects preparing for the Fair.
- **Ag Mechanics Auction:** There was general discussion of the Ag Mechanics auction and the creation of a silent auction element. The issue was referred back for an additional meeting with the high school instructors to address the exhibitors qualifications and whether they should be required to be enrolled in an Ag Mechanics class.
- **Livestock Issues**
  - The consideration of livestock entry fees and premiums will be brought to the Board in the future.
  - It was announced that the Livestock Producers will be changing the hog processor to Olson's Meat Processing in Orland.
  - It was announced that the steer tagging will be on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Commercial Vendor – Oxygen Bar booth:** After general discussion of the application for an Oxygen Bar at the Fair, it was agreed that it was not therapeutic and because of the allusion of getting "high" it was not appropriate for the Fair.

## **Draft Horse Classic & Harvest Fair**

- It was reported that the Gentle Giant Journal, the direct marketing piece for the Draft Horse Classic, is under production. Management's proposal is that ticket pricing will remain the same as last year.

## **CEO Report**

- **Deputy Manager:** CEO Woods reported that Deputy Manager Robin Hauck will join the staff on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **California Fair Alliance Report:** CEO Woods reported that the California Fairs have reached a historic accord with the creation of a continuous appropriation of 32 million dollars from the General Fund to the Fairs & Expositions Fund, moving the fair industry away from the licensing fees on the horse racing handle. While the move does appear to create funding relief, there are many questions and concerns which will be explored at the next CFA Board of Directors meeting. CEO Woods is a director of the California Fair Alliance.
- **Furlough Program:** CEO Woods reported that the Fair's four full time employees are required to participate in the furlough program, taking two days a month off without remuneration. Because of the work load, some of the employees are respectfully volunteering their labor on the required furlough days.
- **Livestock Pavilion Project:** CEO Woods reported that a committee met and worked on the design of the proposed Livestock Pavilion. Nor-Cal Construction has provided a preliminary estimate of the project. Conversations with California Construction Authority indicate that the next step is pursuing design drawings to be submitted to CCA for approval. CEO Woods has also spoken with Citizens Bank of Northern California and discussed a potential loan to the Fair and to the Foundation.
- **Strategic Planning Meeting:** CEO Woods reported that the Strategic Planning Meeting with Rebecca Desmond, the WFA Treasurer and CEO of the Siskiyou Golden Fair, as the facilitator is scheduled for Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Crystal Dairy:** CEO Woods reported that Crystal Dairy is modifying their operation so that they will provide Treat Street concessionaires with their large order on Tuesday, before the Fair; during the Fair they will only supply ice and water on the grounds; concessionaires will have to pick up any additional product they will need at the Dairy. Fair staff plans to look closer at the proposal and try to provide some no cost support to make the system work smoothly.

### **Nevada County Fairgrounds Foundation Report**

It was reported that the Nevada County Fairgrounds Foundation will be meeting on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss their organizational structure, mission plan and 2009 fund raising projects.

### **Directors Comments**

- **Director Wolfson Leave of Absence:** Director Wolfson's letter, requesting a leave of absence through February 2010 because of his recruitment by the American Bar Association to work as a Legal Specialist in the Country of Georgia on a legal reform project, was read by the Board. After general discussion regarding how Director Wolfson is an asset to the Board and his absence does not affect a quorum, Director Browning moved to approve the request, Director Lusk seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- There were no other comments from directors.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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Sandra J. Woods, CEO

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Simi Lyss, President of the Board