

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee
August 30, 2015

The Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee met in regular session on August 30, 2015, with Chairman, Mike Egerton, Sam Buchert, Kris Sims, Kathleen Maltais Trampas Stucker, Jill Scott, Wanda McFarland, Erin White, Ali Thomas, Jill Scott, and Tracey Reagles present. Clerk Kathleen Descoteaux was also present.

Not present, Ila Hall.

Call to Order

The meeting started at 1:06pm.

The meeting was delayed for 10 minutes to allow DNR to do a small memorial for the fallen fire fighters. Many members of the public participated in the meeting.

1. Public Comment

Anyone wishing to comment needs to state their name and address for the record. They will be given up to 3 minutes to speak. Note: This is not a time for discussion. It is an opportunity for the Fair Advisory Committee to listen to the public's comments.

2. Approval of Agenda

Additions to the Agenda:

- a. **Trampas Stucker moved to place the public comment section of the agenda closer to the beginning of the meeting so the public could contribute before moving to team reports. Ali Thomas seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Trampas moved to accept the agenda as amended. Wanda seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

This meeting is largely attended by the public. Several attendees addressed the FAC without announcing their names. All are addressed as Anon. in these minutes.

Commissioners Jim DeTro and Sheilah Kennedy attended but had no report. Emergency Manager Maurice Goodall was invited to give an update of the fires and explain the Commissioners' decision to keep the Fire Teams in place on the fairgrounds through the end of their contract.

Mr. Goodall reported that there were full Type 1 teams at both the fairgrounds and the Stampede grounds. The two teams could not intermingle because they are fighting separate fires. Intermingling could present logistical and informational problems. The Type 1 team on the Fairgrounds could not be moved because the vendors that had signed to feed the firefighters were not attached to the team and could disappear into the combined pool of eligible vendors.

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With the great number of fires in the nation, there was little guarantee that our Type 1 team would have kitchen vendors to feed the firefighters if they moved grounds. Additionally, there are no other grounds that could accommodate such as big team.

A member of the public asked what is projected for next Sunday. Mr. Goodall said it was hard to project.

Commissioner Kennedy said this is a Type 1 team. The camp will reduce to Type 2 eventually, but still be in place. It is possible that a Type 2 camp would be able to be on the grounds while the fair also took place because Type 2 is smaller than Type 1.

Jill Scott asked have the Commissioners made the decision to keep DNR on the fairgrounds? The answer is yes, they did make that decision after the Commissioners signed the Declaration of Emergency.

Commissioner DeTro said all resources had been brought to Eastern Washington and we would lose fire support if we asked the DNR to move. You may postpone the fair two weeks, you may look into moving the fair to the Waterville grounds, or you can hold out to see if the fire goes out and can still have the fair on time.

Commissioner Kennedy said you can also just have a market sale for the people who raised animals to sell at fair. The FAC and the public need to give the Commissioners options from which to choose for the eventual outcome of the fair.

Erin White asked if the DNR move and make more room to have the fair? Mr. Goodall responded no, the team is in place.

Anon. interjected that people can't take time off for a postponed fair.

Mike Egerton said they may have only the market stock sale, move the date of the fair or move to Waterville, but there are inherent problems with each option.

Mr. Goodall said we would ask that people stay off the fairgrounds and leave the DNR alone while they are in place.

Anon. asked if a Type 2 team can be moved. Mr. Goodall said yes, it's a possibility. You could even delay a decision. Who knows?

Mike Egerton said we can hold off and have the vote later. We can change the date. We have not reached out, but postponing will mean losing some vendors and entertainers.

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Tarri Darwood asked if the fair was moved to Waterville, it's half the size of the Okanogan fairgrounds. Should we poll Facebook to see what people want? Can Waterville hold the whole fair?

Naomie Boesel asked how many exhibitors had signed up. The answer is 203 exhibitors and 1200+ exhibits.

The meeting broke into some chaotic conversation with people interjecting their opinions. Unintelligible conversations.

Trisha Bradley said she supports postponing the fair three weeks. A smaller fair is better than no fair. Mike Egerton agreed that it would be a lesser fair. She then said she was against the move to Waterville.

Anon. said that in October, the pigs will be over 300 pounds. The FAC agreed that the weights would be adjusted.

Sheila Corson said moving to Waterville would be a nightmare and she favored postponing. She supports the DNR, but wished to have the fair on the Okanogan fairgrounds.

Lona Fritts said that she agreed with Sheilah Corson. She suggested leaving making the decision for four days.

Willie Cate asked if the fair rules had changed. In 2001 or 2002, DNR moved for fair.

Mike Egerton said in a normal year, finding a new vendor is easy. This is a bad year.

Commissioner Kennedy said that there are four Type 1 teams in five counties. Before, we only had one team. The areas that will hold them are running out.

Anon. asked if DNR would move if they were asked. Mr. Goodall replied yes. Mike Egerton said the DNR is using a fair food vendor.

The meeting broke into angry public members shouting out that having the DNR on the grounds is all about the money and they should be moved out so the Fair can go on.

Stephanie Bedard said she can't make the move to Waterville for various reasons. She supports the firefighters.

Anon. said the irrigation gets shut off on September 16, so if the Fair is moved, how are people going to care for their animals?

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Commissioners DeTro said no one is making money. Mr. Goodall said the money paid by the DNR to rent the grounds stays with the Fairgrounds and does not leave. It benefits the grounds. Anon. shouted, "Don't tell me you don't make money!" Mr. Goodall agreed that there was money and Mike Egerton said that whether there was money or not was irrelevant.

Lonnie Good said if you can't disturb the grounds for two weeks, why not just wait and have the fair then? Mike Egerton said all the stake holders would have to be contacted and they had until Thursday (Sep 3) to make a decision and the decision to have the fair on time would have to be made before the 4th of September.

Jill Scott asked the Commissioners whether, if they had the market sale at the livestock yard, there would be funds to support the sale.

Commissioner DeTro said that would have to be a full-board decision and they couldn't answer because those decisions had to be made while they were convened as the BOCC.

Anon. said that getting more time off would be impossible for many people to get more time off.

Trampas Stucker said he was in favor of postponing. Jason Wilson said that postponing the fair would take animals above their top weight. Mike Egerton said adjustments would be made for people.

Anon. asked if all other local possibilities to move the DNR had been exhausted. Mike Egerton replied that yes, the DNR had searched all areas.

Anon. asked if athletes would be able to only sell their animals so that they could also compete in their sports. Erin White said that would be taken into consideration.

Kathleen Malthas said she had lost her house the year before in Carlton Complex fire and she supported the Commissioners' decision. She wanted the DNR to protect the community and did not wish to incur liability in the event that the DNR be asked to leave.

Mike Egerton said that canceling the fair would not cost a thing and the reason they were having the meeting was to determine whether they should cancel the fair or postpone.

Anon. said that postponing would be good.

Mike Egerton said that if fair were postponed, it would be a short fair.

Anon. asked if the Commissioners had made a decision without the FAC. What's the guarantee that there will be a fair in two weeks if it's postponed? Are the Commissioners going to kick out

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DNR so we can have a postponed fair? Anon. also argued with Commissioner DeTro about communicating with the FAC before making decisions about the fair.

Sandy Jones said we are living in a 911 situation, living day to day. She cares about our safety.

Anon. said the Commissioners made the agreement with the DNR for their own benefit financially.

Mike Egerton said what it comes down to is when in the future do you want the fair?

Lonnie Good said if we downsize, can we still have a fair?

Commissioner DeTro said things could change and we would still have a fair.

Shelby Hendershot said she agreed with having the fair from the 24th-27th. It wouldn't be too cold out and it wouldn't conflict with other community events previously scheduled. She would like even a three week delay.

Anon. responded by saying NO.

Stephanie Bedard said if they waited to make the decision, no one would be able to get time off from work.

Trampas Stucker **made a motion to delay postponing until Thursday, Sep 3 to make a decision about postponing the fair. Kathleen Malthas seconded.**

Mike Egerton asked how many superintendents can be available for the meeting on the 3rd?

Chaotic comments erupted from the attendees.

Trampas Stucker amended the motion to include **and if nothing works, there will be a one day market sale to include all animals.**

All were in favor, motion carried.

The decision about whether to postpone the fair or not has been postponed to Thursday, September 3.

Trisha Bradley stated that every barn should be in charge of jobs to set up for the late fair.

Chaotic conversation from attendees.

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Wanda moved to waive all weight restrictions, but it was not carried.

Waiving minimum weights was discussed, but Ali Thomas disagreed with it because going too light wouldn't work. Stacy Gage said the weight limits shouldn't be that extreme, so Erin White removed the motion.

Ali Thomas moved to amend the livestock weight limits to: Sheep, 100lb minimum, no maximum; Swine, 210lb minimum, 320lb maximum; Beef 1000lb minimum, 1600lb maximum. Trampas Stucker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 3, 2015.

Dated at Okanogan, Washington this ____ day of _____ 2015.

Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Mike Egerton, Member

FAC Clerk, Kathleen Descoteaux

Wanda McFarland, Member