

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**  
**Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee**  
**September 3, 2015**

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The Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee met in regular session on September 3, 2015, with Chairman, Mike Egerton, Sam Buchert, Kris Sims, Kathleen Maltais Trampas Stucker, Jill Scott, Wanda McFarland Ali Thomas, Jill Scott, Erin White, and Tracey Reagles present. Clerk Kathleen Descoteaux was also present.

**Call to Order**

Meeting began at 6:00.

**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**

**Ila Hall moved to accept the agenda. Jill Scott seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

**4. Correspondence**

a. There was no correspondence.

**5. New Business**

a. No new business

**6. Reports**

a. Queen

No report

b. Commissioners

Commissioners Campbell and Kennedy were in attendance. They asked their emergency manager to update attendees on the fire situation. Maurice Goodall said the team was still obviously in place on the fairgrounds. The fire had decreased but was still active. The fire teams were on the fairgrounds and were going to stay on the fairgrounds. While he couldn't say with 100% certainty, postponing would probably work out for the fair and the teams would probably have been moved to other areas by then.

c. Team

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- i. Executive  
None
- ii. Finance  
None
- iii. Rules  
None
- iv. Livestock  
**The adjusted weights were discussed again: sheep-100lb minimum, no maximum, swine-210lb minimum, 320lb maximum; beef-1000lb minimum, 1600lb maximum.**
- v. Vending  
None.
- vi. Entertainment  
None
- vii. Camping  
None
- viii. Advertising  
In a holding pattern until a new date is chosen.
- ix. Parking
- x. Exhibitor  
None.

**7. Old Business**

Discussion about the postponement of the fair.

Anon. asked Maurice Goodall (Emergency Manager) what the difference was between the Tripod fire and this fire because the fire camp had been moved off site in time for fair in that fire. Maurice explained that this was a bigger fire, there were more teams, more firefighters and if this team were asked to move, they would lose their kitchen. Anon. continued that he had heard that the kitchens weren't that big of a deal. Firefighters were smart, knew what teams they were on and didn't have to worry about intermingling with another team camped on the same grounds, and besides, the kitchens always move with the teams.

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Anon. (a different person) said that Waterville had just had their highest attendance ever, even with the fires and lousy weather. She said the fair made everyone feel like everything would be okay.

Anon. (a different person) said what kind of hit would the fair take with the contracts? Mike Egerton said that some vendors would not be able to attend if the dates were changed, but that no one had yet been notified because the decision had not yet been made.

Jill Scott asked if the contract had been signed between the Commissioners and DNR. Commissioner Kennedy answered that there were pre-negotiated contracts but the current price of rental was being negotiated.

Commissioner Campbell said the Commissioners were in communication with the DNR. They have fires all over their county and are hurting for resources. They had asked DNR to move, but DNR had said that changing spots would take effort away from fighting the fire. Their decision to keep DNR on the fairgrounds had to be made at a minute's notice. He also said the Commissioners were trying to get a fair going, but it depended on what the fire was doing and what the fire teams needed.

Anon. asked if the fire team would be out in two weeks.

Commissioner Campbell said he thought so, but it depended on the weather. He said he would love it if it would rain so the fire would get knocked out and they could get on with planning the fair.

Monte Andrews said he would like to see the Commissioners make a decision and push the fair back two weeks because there was no way that a fair could be put on with 5 days' preparation time. Since the decision to change livestock weights had been made, it wouldn't take much to push the fair back two weeks.

Gwen Whitley said some people can't come because they used their vacation planning for the original fair dates.

Monte Andrews suggested that the fair be reduced from five days to three.

Matt Deebach said the school kids already take time off to attend fair and schools allowed some time for fair. He recommended shortening the fair by a day to make it easier for schools and kids. He also thought the judges should be informed of the weight changes so that it would not affect the kids' judging results. He said that he had observed that the most important part of fair for kids is having the opportunity to show their animals. He made an analogy in that it was like a sport and athletes needed a

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chance to exhibit their skill. He suggested that a decision be made so that a plan could be made and everyone could figure things out.

Monte Andrews said schools would give the students a floating day off, but they needed a date.

Tracey Reagles said that the FAC needed a date, too.

Commissioner Campbell said they were waiting for the recommendation of the FAC in order to be able to make their decision.

Matt Deebach said they would probably have to sliver things down.

Ali Thomas said it was time to decide if they were having a fair.

**Ila Hall made a motion to decide if they were moving the fair from the 10<sup>th</sup> to a different date. Wanda McFarland seconded.**

Wanda McFarland thought she would not be able to get time off from work and Ila Hall said she would be working at the fair without pay from her work. Wanda asked the Commissioners if the new fair date would be definite or would the date be up in the air?

Commissioner Campbell said that if the Commissioners felt the County was safe, they would clear the grounds. It all depended on what the fire did.

Commissioner Kennedy wondered if two options could be chosen: one week and two week postponements?

Ila Hall said that advertising money was being eaten up and she needed a definite date for the fair.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if she and Commissioner Campbell could go speak with the DNR quickly to be updated so that they could make a better decision. The FAC said they could. Commissioners Kennedy and Campbell walked onto the grounds.

In the meantime, Ila asked if a day could be taken off, but Wanda McFarland said that the horse people would be too adversely affected if a day were taken off the fair time.

Erin White suggested making Sunday a full day, but many people did not want to.

Ali Thomas said that all barns would have to change their schedules for a shortened fair and the horse barn could, as well.

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Sam Buchert said he was in favor of a three day fair.

Mike Egerton said that DNR had to be gone by the 19<sup>th</sup> at the latest if they were going to be able to throw a fair on the 24<sup>th</sup>. If they weren't gone by the 19<sup>th</sup>, there would be no fair.

Jill Scott interjected that they had to be gone by the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Egerton asked if the consensus was that there be a three day fair.

Wanda McFarland said no, it's a four day fair.

Erin White asked if there was a state requirement that it be a four day fair.

Wanda McFarland said that if they change the fair by losing a day, every contract would have to be refunded, every contract rewritten and that the office staff couldn't do that in two weeks. Ila said that logistically, they would have to keep the fair for the same amount of time.

The Commissioners returned and said that DNR would move off the grounds by September 10. Commissioner Kennedy said the fair could be held the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>, but Monte Andrews said they needed more than 1.5 weeks to prepare for fair.

Mike Egerton asked if the fair could be held on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners said that campers for the fair could be moved onto the grounds as early as the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Sam Buchert asked if we still wanted to shorten the fair.

A motion was made to have the fair on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but Kevin Cunningham reminded the meeting that Teresa Good (who is doing stage management and entertainment scheduling) was having a benefit concert that weekend. Matt Deebach also said that Othello's fair is that same weekend, but September 24 did not have a conflict.

Mike Egerton asked if anyone wanted to have a fair without sound or entertainment. Wanda McFarland said that was a good point.

Kathleen Malthas suggested that fair be canceled outright and a market stock sale held instead. She asked how an inferior fair might impact the community poorly. Wanda said that was a good point.

Erin White said the rodeo is good for the 24<sup>th</sup>, but they will charge more.

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Sheila Corson said that non-animal exhibitors deserved a chance to show their exhibits, as well.

Mike Egerton asked what week would work for fair? Ila Hall said the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> had the least conflict.

**Wanda McFarland made a motion to move the fair from September 10<sup>th</sup> to September 24<sup>th</sup>. Tracey Reagles seconded.**

Wanda asked how the office would be able to do all the paperwork. Commissioner Kennedy said they would make an announcement to cover the change once a date was chosen.

**All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Sam Buchert made a motion to make the fair three days.

Wanda McFarland said a full fair would be easier in the long run because the process was already in place. Erin White said that shortening the fair would make it hard on every superintendent. Wanda McFarland said she wanted a full fair.

Brenda Stevens said it would be hard to cram in all the horse stuff if fair was shortened.

There was no second on Sam Buchert's motion.

Kevin Cunningham volunteered Cattlewomen to help with the market stock sale.

**Wanda McFarland moved to have a four day fair. Ali Thomas seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**8. Announcements**

- a. Next meeting is September 11, 2015.

**9. Adjournment at 7:20pm.**

**Dated** at Okanogan, Washington this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2015.

**Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee**  
**OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON**

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**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Egerton, Member

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FAC Clerk, Kathleen Descoteaux

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Wanda McFarland, Member