Members Present: Faron Wahl, Jo Beal, Denise Muntefering, Justin Bell, Scott Cordts, Judy Stevens, Dusty Anderson, Sherman Gose, and Erin Yost.

Excused: Jamie White, Amanda Stade, and Kevin Hofer.

Department Staff Present: Peggy Besch, and Candi Briley.

Guest: Scott Wick.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Wahl called the meeting to order. The roll call was called, and a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Yost made a motion; seconded by Beal to approve the agenda; motion passed.
3. **Approval of February 18, 2025, Minutes:** Bell made a motion; seconded by Cordts to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025; motion passed.
4. **Public Comment Period:** None.
5. **SHED Construction Update:** Besch reported as of this morning all west side trusses are set, north wall is being reframed, roof steel will start later this week (pending wind and weather), and underground electrical and plumbing in the barn area will wrap up this week. Hopes are to pour the classroom floor next week. Trusses will continue being set. The Morton building that was moved is complete except for some miner grading touch ups.
6. **SD State Fair Foundation Commission Member Vacancy:** According to the SD State Fair Foundation Bylaws, the “Board of Directors shall consist of six of the current duly appointed members of the SD State Fair Commission…with each of the members selected by a majority vote of the SD State Fair Commission.” Besch asked if anyone was interested to let her know so it can be acted on at a future meeting.
7. **2025 SD State Fair**
   1. Exhibitor Handbooks: Besch reported that education entries are open and are due April 15. The majority of exhibitor handbooks should publish April 1, with the exception of equine which we hope to publish early May.
   2. Livestock Release: Besch gave an update that livestock exhibitors will be released on Labor Day only at times designated by fair officials. The Superintendent for each species will issue a Livestock Release Form to exhibitors, which will state their assigned release time. Exhibitors must present this form to gate personnel at the time designated on the Livestock Release Form to be eligible to enter the fairgrounds to remove their livestock or tack. Attempting to remove livestock before the assigned release time may result in:
      * + Loss of premium, and/or
        + A one-year exhibition suspension from exhibiting livestock at the South Dakota State Fair.
   3. New Sidewalk Space: Besch reported that she’s looking for ideas on what to do with the space along the new sidewalk on the west side of the DEX. Some trees and shrubs have been planted.
   4. Vendor Renewals: Besch reported that vendor renewals are coming in nicely and contracts are being issued for both the fair and Wheel Jam. There are a couple of open spaces in the Food Court.
   5. Entertainment/Programing: Briley gave an update on some of the ground and stage entertainment she has confirmed or is working to confirm. The Grandstand entertainment that has been announced includes Red Wilk Construction Bull Bash for Wednesday and Thursday, Larry the Cable Guy for Friday, and Thunder at the Fair Truck and Tractor Pull for Labor Day. Sunday’s show will be announced next week with the last concert to follow, probably early April.
   6. Camping
      1. Proposed Fee Increase: Besch explained that due to rising operating and programming costs, administration did a review of all revenues and expenses and identified camping fees are an area needing adjustment. The last fee adjustment was in 2017; prior to that, no changes were recorded between 2008 and 2017 (did not look any further than 2008). A task force was formed to evaluate pricing options. Multiple scenarios were considered, and the final recommendation was developed through careful deliberation. The proposed fee structure is based on campsite location: $40 per night for basic lot rent on the main fairgrounds and $20 per night for basic lot rent in satellite campgrounds. Additionally, campsites will incur extra fees based on available amenities, including $5 per night for water, $5 per night for sewer, and $15 per night for electricity. Besch also stated there are some planned enhancements to some of the campgrounds. Over the next two years, satellite campgrounds will receive water and sewer upgrades. Additional sewer hookups will be added to some main fairground sites. These improvements will enhance the camping experience. Campers who currently pay for pump-and-dump services may see savings due to added sewer connections. Besch mentioned the task force did a review of nearby campgrounds and other State Fair camping rates that indicated the current fees are significantly lower, and even with the proposed increase, SD State Fair camping rates remain competitive. However, if some camping guests wish to not pay the higher rates, Lot F, located four blocks from the fairgrounds, remains available for $25 per night with no amenities. A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Beal, to pass a resolution of support for the proposed camping fee increase stating while price increases are never ideal, this change is necessary to support the long-term financial health of the fairgrounds while maintaining the services and programing fairgoers have come to expect. Motion carried by roll call vote.
      2. Reservation Renewals: Letters were sent to camping guests letting them know camping fees will be increasing. Renewals will be sent out in May once finalized.
   7. Other: None.
8. **4-H Update:** None.
9. **Non-Fair Time Activities:** Besch reported on upcoming public events including a ranch sorting event, KOKK Outdoor Show, Heartland Pool & Dart Tournament, East Fest Barrel Race, MX at the DEX, Shrine Circus, and Wheel Jam just to mention a few.
10. **Maintenance and Repairs:** Besch reported the installation of water and sewer at the Gate 13 campground has started. The new siding project for the Food Court and Tap Haus should be complete prior to the fair. New LED light fixtures are being installed in several buildings to aid with energy cost. The FFA Ag Adventure Center and the Poultry Barn are complete. They have started in Nordby Exhibit Hall. Efforts are also underway to make some cosmetic changes to enhance the VIP Lounge.
11. **Commissioners or Manager Reports:** Beal mentioned she was able to take part in the IAFE Zone 4 conference with many other fairs in the Midwest. She shared some information she learned. Bell mentioned keeping the Tap Haus open until Midnight for the 2025 fair. Gose inquired about Agtegra’s Customer Appreciation event.
12. **Executive Session**: None.
13. **Next Meeting**: May 20, 2025, 1 PM.
14. **Adjourned**